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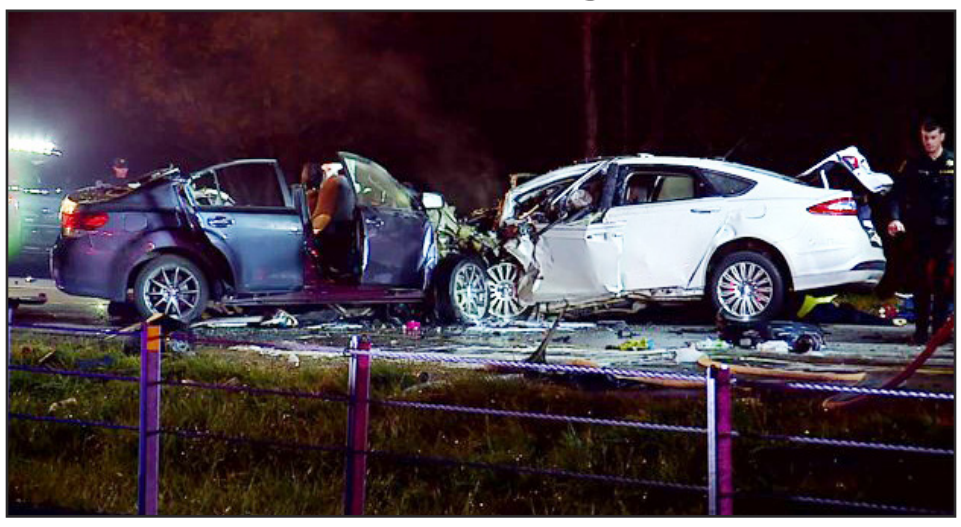
Thursday, November 6, 2025

Wrong-way vehicle crashes with another, 4 dead, 2 injured



Early Sunday morning in Allegan County, Michigan, a serious traffic collision occurred on U.S. Highway 131 near mile-marker 57-59 in the vicinity of Wayland Township, resulting in four deaths and two critical injuries.

According to the Allegan County Sheriff's Office:

• A vehicle was reported traveling southbound in the northbound lanes of US-131 near 129th Avenue.

• An officer from the Gun Lake Tribal Police Department located the wrong-way vehicle near mile-marker 59 and was attempting to intercept.

• The wrong-way vehicle then collided head-on with another northbound vehicle near mile-marker 57 (in or near Martin Township) in the early hours of the morning.

Victims & injuries

• The female driver of the wrong-way vehicle was pronounced dead at the scene. Investigators found that the wrong-way vehicle's driver, a 38-year-old woman from Grand Rapids, exited at 129th Avenue, entered the northbound on-ramp, made a U-turn and traveled south in northbound lanes.

• The driver of the northbound car and a front seat passenger were also pronounced dead at the scene.

• Three additional passengers from the northbound vehicle sustained life-threatening injuries and were transported to medical facilities.

• The names of the deceased and injured have not yet been released pending family notification.

Investigation status

• Authorities say impairment (alcohol) is believed to be a contributing factor in the crash of the wrong-way driver, but the investigation is still ongoing.

• The crash remains under investigation by the Allegan County Sheriff's Office Accident Reconstruction Team, with assistance from multiple agencies (Gun Lake Tribal Police, Michigan State Police, local EMS & fire).

• The injured passengers have been identified as teenagers aged between 16 and 18 years old.

• One of the deceased in the crash (from the northbound vehicle) was a recent graduate of Portage Northern High School, according to school district spokespersons.

UPDATE:

Deputies have confirmed that a fourth person — a 17-year-old girl — has died after a wrong-way crash on US-131 over the weekend. They have also released the names of the drivers, both of whom were killed in the crash.

Lt. Brandon Berens with the Allegan County Sheriff's Office confirmed the 17-year-old's death Tuesday morning. A spokesperson for Portage Public Schools confirmed that she was a Community High School student.

She was a passenger in the car that was traveling in the correct direction, Berens said. Her name was not immediately released.

Also on Tuesday, the sheriff's office identified the wrong-way driver as 38-year-old Erin Louise Jones of Grand Rapids. Deputies also named the driver of the car that was hit as 18-year-old Emmanuel Browning of Kalamazoo.

Do you need help? Write Us!

By Mike Wilcox
Owner/Publisher

Every year, as the Christmas season draws near, I'm reminded just how generous our communities can be. For nearly two decades, Wilcox Newspapers has hosted what's become one of my favorite traditions: our Annual Christmas Wish Program.

It started simply enough. We asked readers who were struggling to write in and tell us what would make their Christmas a little brighter. The idea was to connect local families in need with local people who wanted to help. Over the years, it's grown into something truly special—and this year, we're doing it again.

Lately, I've heard from more families than ever who are struggling to make ends meet. The rising cost of everyday necessities, from groceries and gas to rent and utilities, has stretched household budgets thin. It's been a tough year for a lot of people, and many are finding themselves in need of a little extra help just to get by.

If you or your family are going through a difficult time, I encourage you to write to us and be as specific as you can. Tell us about your situation, your family, and how we might help make your holiday a little brighter. Most importantly, explain why you need our help. We prefer you email us at wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com, but if you don't have access to a computer, you can always mail a letter to P.O. Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010.

Over the years, I've been amazed at the generosity that pours in from our readers and advertisers. One afternoon, while vacuuming our new office, I noticed an envelope on the floor. Inside were ten $100 bills—no note, no name, just a quiet act of kindness from someone who wanted to help. Another time, a donor sent $2,000. Several more gave $1,000 each. For a Scrooge like me, it's humbling to see just how deeply people here care for one another.

Last year alone, we were able to raise more than $20,000 in cash and gifts, helping over 70 families enjoy the holidays. This year, our goal is even higher. We hope to assist at least 100 families within our circulation areas.

I've always believed in the saying, "We take care of our own," and nowhere is that truer than in the communities we serve. So, if you legitimately need help this Christmas, and I stress LEGITIMATELY, please reach out to us. And if you're in a position to give, know that your generosity can change someone's holiday, and maybe their outlook on life, for the better.

Plainwell band places second at state finals

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

DETROIT—Refined.

That's the one word Plainwell High School band director David Hepinstall used to describe the PHS marching band's performance at the Michigan Competing Band Association Flight IV State Championship on Saturday, Nov. 1.

The judges on hand at Ford Field in Detroit agreed, as the PHS band received a score of 85.3 to secure runner-up honors in the state. Stevensville-Lakeshore took home the top prize with a score of 90.4

The Trojans' score represented a new record at the State Championship for the program. PHS's previous best finish was fourth place, which came in 2021.

"This season, the students showed that they were committed to refinement," Hepinstall said. "They were committed to all the little things we've preached every year and fully bought in.

"Intonation was a priority. Tone quality was a priority. Balance within and across sections was a priority. Foot timing was a priority. Commitment to characterization was a priority. They wholly and completely bought in to executing the little things we've been preaching for years."

After the performance, Hepinstall said his message to the students was a simple one.

"My message to the students after the competition was similar to what it is at the end of every performance: remember this feeling," he said. "Most band students are done playing their instruments after high school and all they take with them are the lessons and the memories they made.

"That's what we're all about. Through music, we make memories and have experiences they would never get anywhere else."

The students could also make another memory in the near future in the form of Hepinstall dyeing his beard pink.

"A couple kids made a bet with me early in the season about dyeing my beard pink if we medal," he said. "So that could be happening soon."

While wanting to live in the moment and focus on the celebration of the band's accomplishments this season, Hepinstall couldn't help but think of the impact this season will have on the future of the program.

"We have higher expectations of ourselves going forward," he said. "We don't expect this to be a that-special-year type of memory. We're in a position where our students expect themselves to hit this standard year after year."

Hepinstall also expressed his gratitude for the district's administration for its continued support, as both PCS superintendent Matthew Montange and PHS principal Marvin Taylor made the trek to Detroit. Both helped push props on and off the field.

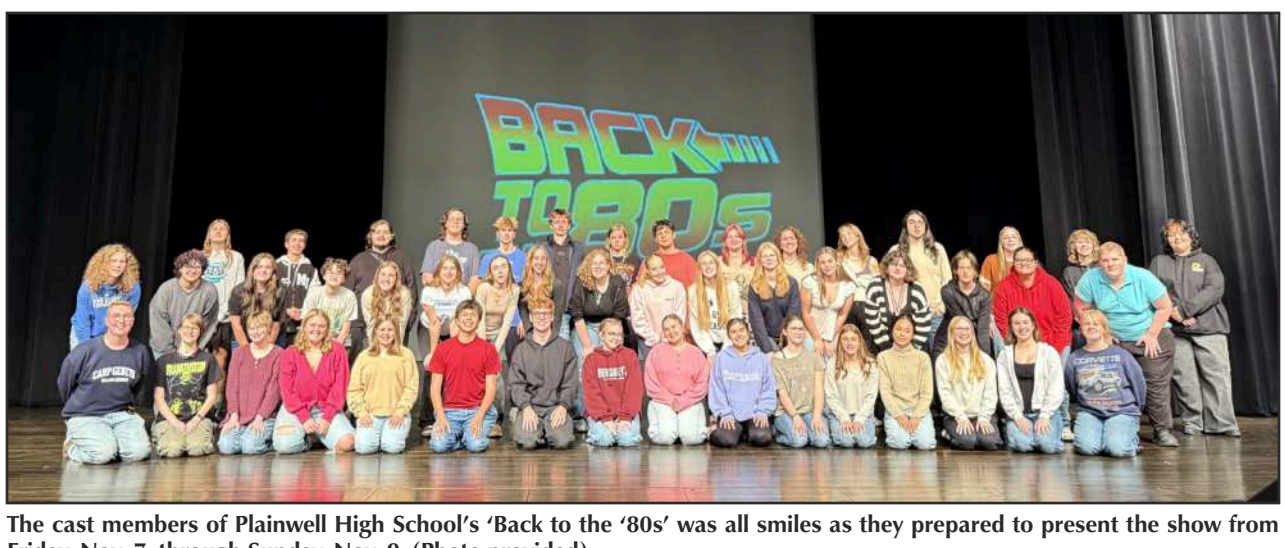
"Our superintendent consistently steps up to find funding to meet our needs," Hepinstall said. "Our principal consistently goes to bat for us and other programs to ensure we all have time and space to practice and rehearse. We can't thrive the way we do without the ecosystem they are breeding in our school. I feel immensely grateful for their support."

Likewise, Hepinstall thanked the community—including parent volunteers—for their support throughout this season and in past years.

"Dozens of people stepped up to support our students in so many ways," he said. "It's literally impossible to express the level of gratitude I feel for everyone that does everything that I see and can't see to support our hard-working band students."

PHS presents 'Back to the '80s' this weekend

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor



The cast members of Plainwell High School's 'Back to the '80s' was all smiles as they prepared to present the show from Friday, Nov. 7, through Sunday, Nov. 9. (Photo provided)

Great music, iconic fashion statements and iconic dance moves brought to life.

That, according to Hannah Sheikh, is what audiences members can expect when they come out to see Plainwell High School's production of "Back to the '80s" from Friday, Nov. 7, through Sunday, Nov. 9.

Show times are 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday at the Plainwell Performing Arts Center.

Sheikh, a PHS teacher, is serving as the show's director.

"(Audience members) are truly in for a treat," she said. "We encourage those coming to see the show to wear their best '80s looks, whether it be their favorite band or concert t-shirt or sporting the bright neon colors."

"Back to the '80s" is loosely based on the plot of the iconic '80s movie "Back to the Future," which starred Michael J. Fox as high school student Marty McFly and recently celebrated its 40th anniversary.

Here is a plot summary for "Back to the '80s," as it appears from Playscripts, Inc.:

"Hold on to your hoverboards, we're taking a trip *Back to the 80s*! When modern teen Mary Fitzfry gets sent back in time by an eccentric professor, she finds herself in the middle of a totally tubular cavalcade of '80s pop culture.

"There's a lot of familiar faces, from the teens in breakfast-time detention to the guys chasing ghosts and dancing zombies, but the biggest surprise of all is Mary's own protective mom as a teen. Turns out she's actually kind of rad—but thanks to Mary's time travel, she's in trouble. Can Mary make things right?

"This adventure takes you from the mall where everything happens, to a suburban sitcom street, to a cave under the high school—and you can choose who to feature from a flexible throng of characters to bring your audience maximum nostalgia. A hilarious parody to make all ages cheer 'I love the '80s!'"

"Back to the '80s" was one of several shows Sheikh considered selecting for PHS as she deliberating on whether to do something more comedic in nature or a more serious show.

But "Back to the '80s" kept pulling her back to it.

"My parents raised me on the music, movies, TV shows and general culture of the '70s and '80s, so I felt I could use this as a learning opportunity to introduce kids to the culture," she said.

And the students who are involved in the show have seemed to enjoy brining it to life.

"It's been such a joy and honor to work with this group of students both in the cast and crew," Sheikh said. "This group of students is so dedicated to making sure this show is at its absolute best.

"Seeing how involved the kids have gotten has been so rewarding. From wanting to find creative ways to post and spread word about the show to wanting to contribute ideas to how we can convey the story of the show on stage, they have been amazing."

General admission tickets for the show are $10 and can be purchased by visiting plainwellschools.ludus.com.

INDEX

Classifieds B6
Puzzles / For The Record B7
Obituaries A7
Viewpoints A6
Community Events A4
Religion B8
Sports B1-B3

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As SNAP funding lapses, community action agencies face crisis amid rising local needs

As the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funds have lapsed, Americans are turning to Community Action Agencies (CAAs)—trusted, locally led organizations tasked with combating poverty—for help. Yet hundreds of Community Action organizations nationwide are being forced to cut back critical services due to the government shutdown, warns the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF).

NCAF represents over a thousand Community Action Agencies (CAAs) across the country. Already, an estimated 14 percent of CAA's have closed programs or furloughed staff. By Thanksgiving, an estimated 20 percent more CAAs will be forced to shutter programs temporarily, and by December, nearly half of all CAAs could be forced to close programs or shut down entirely.

"These agencies are driven by a mission to assist the people in their communities who need help," says David Bradley, CEO of NCAF. "They are doing everything in their power to remain open, especially as demand increases due to the lapse in SNAP benefits. But a pause in services, no matter how short, will be catastrophic for individuals and families across the country."

Community Action Agencies are the backbone of local anti-poverty efforts. Community Action of Allegan County (CAAC) has been operating for 60 years … providing effective, tailored programs that tackle the root causes of poverty, ranging from Head Start, Early Head Start, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to job training, food assistance, and emergency relief. In many rural areas across the country, CAAs are the only organization providing these essential services.

The Role of CSBG: The Backbone of Community Action

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is the backbone of Community Action Agencies, providing the flexible, foundational support necessary to keep staff in place, maintain facilities, and coordinate the complex network of services that respond to community needs. When CSBG lapses, it is not a single program that pauses, it is the infrastructure that connects all programs that is disrupted.

Each CSBG dollar is multiplied through leveraged partnerships with other federal, state, and private funds. Without CSBG, that leveraging capacity is lost, stalling not only direct services but the community-wide impact built on those funds.

"For Community Action of Allegan County (CAAC), a lapse in CSBG means more than a budgetary delay," says Brenda Molendyk, CFO/COO of CAAC. "It directly affects our ability to coordinate emergency food distributions, sustain outreach to vulnerable seniors, and keep essential staff working to manage critical programs. Without CSBG, CAAs lose the connective tissue that links program funding to the people who need it most."

Local Impact and Call to Action

As the government shutdown continues and SNAP benefits lapse, CAAC's team has been closely watching the growing impact on Allegan County residents. With LIHEAP funding suspended and cooler weather approaching, and many households facing the loss of health coverage, now is the time for direct action from the community to lift struggling friends and neighbors.

Here's why it matters:

- Over 12,000 Allegan County households rely on SNAP—nearly 10% of our county population.
- 203 of the 293 families enrolled in CAAC's local Head Start and Early Head Start programs depend on SNAP benefits.
- This week alone, CAAC's emergency food distribution program served 679 individuals—a one day 70% increase in need.

Given this challenging time CAAC is calling the community to "Take Action":

- Donate: https://p2p.onecause.com/caacdonations/donate
- Volunteer: https://communityactionallegan.org/get-involved/volunteer/
- Follow CAAC on social media for funding and advocacy updates on CSBG, Head Start, and LIHEAP: https://www.facebook.com/communityactionallegan/
- Drop off donations of food, hygiene products, or household items at more than 30 local businesses participating in our Holiday Giving Drive: https://communityactionallegan.org/get-involved/holiday-giving/

In these challenging times, with the support of the community, Community Action of Allegan County can and will continue to provide hope, help, and do everything it can to meet the needs of struggling children, families, and seniors in our community.

Monday truck accident closes U.S. 131

By John Raffel
Correspondent

ALLEGAN. — Allegan County Central Dispatch received a call for an accident on south bound US 131 at 146th Ave late Monday afternoon.

A semi truck was traveling south bound carrying a piece of heavy machinery struck the overpass. There were no injuries to anyone involved. MDOT assessed the damage to the bridge, and at this time south bound US 131 is closed from 100th St to 142nd Ave until further notice.

The Sheriff's office was assisted by Allegan County Central Dispatch, Michigan State Police, Dorr Fire Department, and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

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Community Events

Community Calendar - Week of November 3, 2025

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

November Holiday Canned Food Drive: Hosted by Beacon Allegan and Beacon Plainwell. Drop off cans of food or money that will be given to the Allegan County Food Pantries.

Register now for Thurs., Nov. 20, 2025, 9am-3pm: Advocacy Bootcamp. Contact Lauren at lvanderploeg@alleganfoundation.org or (269) 673-8344 x209

Fri., Nov. 7, 2025, 10:30am-noon: Come to the Table sharing session. Saugatuck Woman's Club 303 Butler St. Saugatuck

Fri., Nov. 7, & Sat., Nov. 8, 2025, 6pm: Murder at the Country Fair. Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan

Sat., Nov. 8, 2025, 9am-2pn: Ganges United Methodist Church Bazaar. UMC 2218 68th St. Fennville

Sat., Nov. 8, 2025, 9am-2pm: Harvest Market Pine Street Elem 201 Pine St. Wayland

Sat., Nov. 8, 2025, 9:30am-3pm: Holiday Art & Vendor Show Allegan Twp. Hall 3037 118th Ave., Allegan

NEW! Fri., Nov. 14, 2025, 11am-1pm: Meals-on-Wheels Popup Lunch. Good Shepherd Church, 101 N. Walnut, Allegan

CURRENT EVENTS

Wed., Nov. 5, 2025, 6pm: Pintesting: Paper Bead Earrings
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Register to make paper bead earrings. Call 269 673-4625

Thurs., Nov. 6, 2025: Register for the Poverty Education Workshop
Christian Neighbors 282 12th St. Plainwell
Nov. 13, 2025… Hosted by ACCF and facilitated by Cristian Neighbors. Come to learn the frustrations of being financially stretched. https://allegan.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list/event?event_date_id=3575 or call ACCF 269 673-8344.

Thurs., Nov. 6, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Play & Learn with Help Me Grow – Drop in to learn how talking is teaching.
6pm: Fort Custer in the World Wars – Register to join author Brenda Leyndyke as she discusses her book, *Fort Custer in the World Wars*, and provides a historical overview of Fort Custer's role in Michigan's military history. Call 269 673-4625.

Thurs., Nov. 6, 2025, 11:30am-1pm: Multi-Chamber Women's Event
Bay Pointe Woods 5100 Oarie Dr. Shelbyville
Join ladies from ten local chambers to learn with Laurel Day, founder of Do Something Co., with Creativity 101: How Creativity and Connection Fuel Growth. RSVP by Oct. 23rd at 269 673-2479 or director@alleganchamber.com.

Thurs., Nov. 6, 2025, 7-8pm: Allegan Jaycees GMM
Sassy Olive 125 Locust St. Allegan
This general membership is for members and those interested in learning about the work of the Jaycees. Any person under the age of 40 is welcome.

Fri., Nov. 7, 2025, 10:30am-noon: Come to the Table sharing session
Saugatuck Woman's Club 303 Butler St. Saugatuck
Share your stories, ideas and experiences related to food whether your eat food, buy food, sell food, serve food, or grow food, join the Allegan Food Alliance with the goal of creating a vibrant, affordable, local food community across Allegan County. For information contact Mary Colborn at (269) 286-9084 or maryacolborn@gmail.com.

Fri., Nov. 7, 2025, 6pm: Family Nerf Night
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Register to duke it out in the stacks with everyone ages 3 and older. Call 269 673-4625.

Fri., Nov. 7, 2025, 6-8:30pm: The Silo's Holiday Wine Tasting.
The Silo 1071 32nd St. (M-40) Allegan
Enjoy an evening of wine, beer, and delicious bites from around the world. The event is for 21 yrs. and older. Tickets can be purchased by going to https://www.facebook.com/silobanquet/.

Fri., Nov. 7, & Sat., Nov. 8, 2025, 6pm: Murder at the Country Fair
Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan
Move from appetizers to show time and dinner as a fundraiser for the Allegan Education Foundations. Get tickets by emailing edfoundationofAPS@alleganps.org or from an Ed Foundation member.

Sat., Nov. 8, 2025, 9am-2pn: Ganges United Methodist Church Bazaar
UMC 2218 68th St. Fennville
Crafts baked goods, yesterday's treasures, and more will be available. Lunch will be served from 11am-1pm. Information: Marcia Tucker at m.tucker.fennville@gmail.com

Sat., Nov. 8, 2025, 9am-2pm: Harvest Market
Pine Street Elem 201 Pine St. Wayland
Michigan Made, Local Goods, Seasonal Delights, Handmade Artisan Items.

Sat., Nov. 8, 2025, 9:30am-3pm: Holiday Art & Vendor Show
Allegan Twp. Hall 3037 118th Ave., Allegan
Enjoy the adventure of exploring the wonderful arts and crafts hosted by the Allegan Eagles 2315 & Heather Matzen. For more info, contact Kim Caines at diamondcdals@gmail.com.

Mon., Nov. 10, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
1pm: Craft & Snack - Bring your own project work while snacking and chatting!
3:30pm: Mini Keychain Art Club. – 6-12 graders can crop in to make your own art and shrink it down to make a cool keychain.

Tues., Nov. 11, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime – 0-2 year olds can drop in to enjoy stories and activities.
3:30pm: Discover 4-H with MSU – Ages 5-12 can drop in to do activities.
6:30pm: Big Read Book Club – All adults can join for great books, great conversations and fun.

Tues., Nov. 11, 2025, 12pm: Veterans Day Luncheon
Immanuel Lutheran Church 631 Grand St. Allegan
All veterans and their spouses are invited to a wonderful light lunch where no reservations are needed. This is to thank all veterans for their service. For info, call 269 673-3336.

Tues., Nov. 11, 2025, 12:30-2pm: Grief Support Group
United Methodist Church 522 Maple St. Hopkins
Wings of Hope is proud to offer meaningful support to individuals navigating challenging times. Join in on a dedicated session designed to foster healing and connection.

Tues., Nov. 11, 2025, 6-7pm: Love INC 101
Love INC 4621 135th Ave. Hamilton
To learn about how to be a Love INC volunteer, register at https://loveincnwa.org/loveinc101/.

Tues., Nov. 11, 2025, 6-7:30pm: Come to the Table sharing session
Leighton Township Library 4451 12th St. Wayland
Share your stories, ideas and experiences related to food whether your eat food, buy food, sell food, serve food, or grow food, join the Allegan Food Alliance with the goal of creating a vibrant, affordable, local food community across Allegan County. For information contact Mary Colborn at (269) 286-9084 or maryacolborn@gmail.com.

Wed., Nov. 12, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
2pm: Recess for Adults – All adults can join friends from The Arc of Allegan County for games, grafts and conversation.
6pm: Financial Wellness - Ashley Suarez from Fifth Third Bank will help participants learn how to manage finances.

Thurs., Nov. 13, 2025: Poverty Education Workshop
Christian Neighbors 282 12th St. Plainwell
Hosted by ACCF and facilitated by Cristian Neighbors. Come to learn the frustrations of being financially stretched. https://allegan.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list/event?event_date_id=3575 or call ACCF 269 673-8344.

Thurs., Nov. 13, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime – 3-5 year olds can enjoy stories and activities.
4pm: TAG meeting – 8-12 graders can drop in for the Teen Advisory Group to share ideas and snacks.
6pm: Canva for Beginners – Register to learn how to navigate Canva and go over basic graphic design principles. Call 269 673-4625.

Thurs., Nov. 13, 2025, 6pm: Hearts & Hands Carnival
The Trestle Stop 3366 M-40 Hamilton
Community Action of Allegan County celebrates its 60th Anniversary with an adults only evening under the Big Top. For information contact 269 673-5472 X264. For tickets go to https://p2p.onecause.com/heartshands2025.

Fri., Nov. 14, 2025, 11am-1pm: Meal-on-Wheels Drop in Lunch
Good Shepherd Church 101 N. Walnut Allegan
All are welcome to come for lunch, conversation and maybe a few games. Seniors are asked to donate $3.50. All others pay $5.

Fri., Nov. 14, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
1pm: Drop-In Lego Club – 5-12 year olds can drop in to play with oodles of Legos.
6pm: Teen Tech Night – 6-12 graders can register to explore 3-D printing and play video games after hours. Call 269 673-4625.

Fri., Nov. 14, 2025, 8pm: Alastair Watt - Pure MI Stand-Up Comedy Tour
Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan
Alastair Watt, a small town city boy, will do stand-up comedy at the Griswold. Tickets online or at the door.

Mon., Nov. 17, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
3:30pm: Kids' Anime Club – All ages can bring their own Beyblade spinning tops and challenge friends to see who wins!
6pm: Craftastic: Macrame Feathers – Register to make macrame feathers. Call 269 673-4625.

Mon., Nov. 17, 2025, 3-4:30pm: Grief Support Group
Ransom District Library 180 S. Sherwood Ave. Plainwell
Wings of Hope is proud to offer meaningful support to individuals navigating challenging times. Join in on a dedicated session designed to foster healing and connection.

Tues., Nov. 18, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime – 02 yr. olds can enjoy stories and activities.
4pm: TAB – Join the Tween Advisory Board to chat, chill, and chow down while brainstorming ideas, share favorite books, and spark new connections!

Tues., Nov. 18, 2025, 6:30-7:30pm: Virtual Health Hero's Nutrition Class
Register in English or Spanish at bit.ly/familiesconnected2026.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityaction-allegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Diaper Closet – monthly diaper program
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.
Tuesday: In person shopping/walk ins - 10am-12pm
Thursday: In person shopping/walk ins - 2pm-5pm
We have been providing services to the Plainwell, Otsego and Martin areas since 1983.

Community Clothes Closet – Free Clothing and More
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254
Open Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

Grief Support Groups
Wings of Hope invites all to a welcoming and compassionate gathering. 1st Monday of the month – 6-7:30pm, Wings of Hope Office, 530 Linn St., Allegan; 2nd Tues. of each month – 12:30-2pm, United Methodist Church, 322 Maple St., Hopkins; 3rd Monday of each month – 3-4:30pm, Ransom District Library, 189 S. Sherwood Ave., Plainwell; 4th Tues., Grief Support Luncheon, 1pm, Salvino's 1290 M89, Plainwell.

Interfaith Sunday Services
Mothers Trust is a nonprofit that is offering inclusive, interfaith worship services open to all Sundays at 11am at 6676 122nd Ave. Fennville. Information: Megan Hybels 269 312-0369, megan_h@motherstrust.org

Love, Inc.
Love in the Name of Christ 4621 135th Ave. Hamilton
For assistance with food, personal care items, baby needs, household items, clothing, appliances, furniture, bicycles, laundry, showers & Life Skills Wrap Around Care, call 269 751-2533. Visit www.loveincnwa.org., email: office@loveincnwa.org.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - Abuse Prevention and Healing
404 Sherman St., Allegan, MI 49010 www.safeharborcac.org, (269) 673-3791

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Margaret Conference - Food and More
St. Vincent de Paul 124A W. Allegan St. Otsego
Mon.: 1-3pm Tues. & Thurs: 10am to noon Wed.: 3-5pm
Food pantry and limited financial aid. Dtvincentdepaul9005@gmail.com

GANGES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BAZAAR
Saturday, Nov 8 from 9am to 2pm.
Crafts, Baked Goods, Yesterday's Treasures and many more items.
Lunch will be served from 11am to 1pm.
2218-68th Street, Fennville

HOLIDAY ART & VENDOR SHOW
November 8
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Allegan Twp. Hall,
3037 - 118th Ave., Allegan
For More Info Contact Kim Caines
diamondcdals@gmail.com
Or visit us on facebook

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Must be 21 or older. Tickets based on availability. Schedule subject to change.

County Clerk marks Veterans Day with reminder of free services

As West Michigan prepares to honor military veterans on November 11 th , Allegan County Clerk Bob Genetski is reminding all those who wore the uniform of the services his office provides for free to those who have been honorably discharged.

"My office staff and I are extremely grateful for the service and sacrifice of all our constituents who have served in the Army, Navy, Airforce, Marines and Coast Guard," the Clerk echoed.

According to Genetski, one of the most important (and least known) services the Vital Records Division offers is the recording of military discharge papers- otherwise known as DD 214's. When a veteran brings the original papers to the Clerk's Office, the recording is a quick and easy process. The

Bob Genetski

veteran will receive the originals back and a free certified copy is issued. And free certified copies will be issued for the rest of veteran's and designated family members' lives so they may secure benefits like those of the GI Bill, VA, or driver's license designation.

"This service is FREE, and it gives veterans and their families peace of mind," the third term Clerk noted.

"When a veteran passes away, the funeral home will use that recorded DD 214 to secure a veteran's gravestone marker from the Veterans' Administration. Having that paper on file makes the process a lot easier for the loved ones left behind," Genetski indicated.

The information on the Papers of Honorable Separate is completely secure and not available to the public.

The Clerk's Office also offers the Allegan County Veterans ID card. Veterans can present the cards at participating businesses throughout the County and in fact throughout the U.S. to obtain discounts and benefits.

To be eligible for the card, veterans will either file their original DD 214's with the Clerk's Office or the Papers of Honorable Discharge will already be on file. They should bring a state ID with them to the Courthouse when they apply.

There is no charge for the card for eligible individuals.

For questions on these services, constituents can call the Clerk's Office at (269) 673-0450 or visit 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan between the hours of 8 AM and 5 PM. County Office are closed on Veterans' Day.

HOLIDAY ART & VENDOR SHOW
November 8
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Allegan Twp. Hall,
3037 - 118th Ave., Allegan
For More Info Contact Kim Caines
diamondcdals@gmail.com
Or visit us on facebook

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Board of Road Commissioners of Allegan County will be holding a public hearing in accordance with the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 357, Natural Beauty Roads.

The public hearing will be held on November 10, beginning at 6pm at the Hopkins Township Hall, 128 S. Franklin Street, Hopkins, MI 49328. Any party or interested person may support or object to the proposed Natural Beauty Road designation for the following roads.

125th Avenue from 20th Street to 15th Street

126th Avenue from 20th Street to 17th Street and 19th Street from 126th Avenue to ¼ mile north

Please contact Craig Atwood with any questions.

Craig Atwood, Managing Director
1308 Lincoln Road
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-2184
catwood@alleganroads.org

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Honoring the Meaning of Veterans Day

Each year on November 11, Americans pause to recognize Veterans Day—a time to honor the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. While Memorial Day honors those who lost their lives in service, Veterans Day pays tribute to all who have worn the uniform, whether in times of war or peace.

The holiday traces its origins to the end of World War I. Known first as Armistice Day, it marked the truce that took effect on November 11, 1918, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. In 1954, following World War II and the Korean War, Congress renamed the observance Veterans Day to honor veterans of all eras. Today, it stands as a national reminder of sacrifice, service, and unity.

Across the country, communities celebrate the day with parades, ceremonies, and moments of silence. Local veterans' organizations often host wreath-layings, flag-raising events, and memorial services. Schools and civic groups invite veterans to speak about their experiences, providing younger generations with firsthand perspectives on the cost of freedom and the value of service.

Honoring veterans can take many forms. Attending local ceremonies, visiting veterans' memorials, or volunteering at a nearby VA hospital are meaningful ways to show appreciation. Even simple gestures, such as thanking a veteran in person or displaying the American flag, demonstrate respect and gratitude. Many restaurants and businesses also offer special discounts or meals to veterans as a small token of recognition.

Supporting veterans extends beyond a single day. Donating to organizations that assist with housing, healthcare, or job placement can have a lasting impact. Writing letters to deployed service members or contributing to care package programs offers encouragement to those currently serving abroad. Employers can also play a role by hiring veterans and recognizing the leadership and discipline they bring to the workplace.

Veterans Day serves as both a celebration and a reminder—a day to acknowledge the courage and commitment of those who stood ready to defend the nation. By taking time to participate in commemorations, express gratitude, and support ongoing efforts to aid those who served, Americans help preserve the spirit of service that defines the country's history and future.

THIS COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

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Government shutdown can be averted- takes politicians to act instead of grandstand

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX

■ PUBLISHER ■

Another week has passed, and much of our federal government remains shuttered. Hundreds of thousands of federal employees are either furloughed or working without pay. National parks are closed, small business loans are on hold, and millions of Americans are feeling the ripple effects. SNAP benefits affecting millions of Americans have been cutoff. Once again, Washington has managed to do what no foreign adversary could: bring America to a standstill.

So how do we get the federal government back open? The answer isn't complicated — but it does require political courage, something that seems to be in short supply these days.

First, both parties must rediscover the concept of **governing over grandstanding**. Too often, shutdowns have become political weapons — a way for one side to force concessions by holding the entire country hostage. That approach may score points on cable news, but it's disastrous for democracy. Real leadership means compromise, not chaos. Lawmakers must start negotiating with the goal of solving problems, not humiliating their opponents.

Second, Congress should **pass automatic funding provisions** that prevent shutdowns altogether. Several bipartisan proposals already exist that would keep the government operating at current levels if a new budget isn't passed on time. Such a "continuing resolution safeguard" would remove the threat of shutdowns as a bargaining tool and force legislators to do their jobs without the drama. I don't understand why this hasn't been passed in the past. To me it's Legislation 101 and would put a halt to government shutdowns forever.

Third, there needs to be **accountability when the government closes**. Members of Congress and senior officials should not receive paychecks when federal workers don't. That simple act of fairness would go a long way in encouraging urgency. When lawmakers feel the same pain their constituents do, compromise happens faster. I ranted in my column about this last week. Why should our elected officials get paid when their constituents are doing everything to simply survive.

Fourth, we must **return to regular order in budgeting** — that means committees doing their work, hearings held in public, and bills debated and amended openly. The backroom, last-minute deal-making that's become the norm only breeds distrust and dysfunction. Transparency can restore both efficiency and confidence in government.

Finally, Americans themselves have a role to play. Voters must **demand responsibility at the ballot box**. If politicians refuse to fund the government, they shouldn't be rewarded with another term. As citizens, we have the ultimate leverage: our vote. If we keep electing obstructionists, we'll keep getting obstruction.

The cost of a shutdown isn't abstract. Families living paycheck to paycheck can't pay their bills. Veterans see benefits delayed. Rural communities lose grant support. Even the stability of our national credit can be affected. Every day that passes deepens the harm — not to the politicians in Washington, but to the people who sent them there.

I applaud the federal workers that continue to work despite not receiving a paycheck. I heard several horror stories about air traffic controllers not showing up to work thus causing a rash of cancelled flights, or at the very least delayed flights.

I flew from Michigan to Florida this past Sunday and experienced a perfect flight. We left early and arrived in Orlando half an hour early. I was either lucky, or reports have been greatly exaggerated.

Getting the federal government back open requires less finger-pointing and more responsibility. America deserves a government that works, not one that weaponizes dysfunction. It's time for both sides to put down the political talking points, sit at the table, and remember who they're supposed to serve: not their party, not their donors, but the American people.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

On Tuesday, Nov. 11, we observe Veterans Day. It is a "fixed" holiday, like Independence Day on July 4. These days do not move to the nearest Monday so we can have a long weekend; they are too important to our national ethos.

I like that because it is a tangible sign of respect for our veterans. Veterans Day is even more specific: The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. That was the precise time when the Germans and Allies sign the armistice papers that ended World War I in 1918. Today at that time, millions of us nationwide will go the designated spot for a short observance.

We have three major patriotic holidays each year. In the spring we remember the men and women who died while fighting for this country and its rich heritage of freedom, democracy and belief that all of us stand equal under the law. Without their sacrifice our flag would not be flying over our country. On July 4 we celebrate Independence Day and the founding of this nation. Finally, Veterans Day.

The date and time were gress to mark the anniversary of the World War II ending. Some 116,000 U.S. soldiers died in combat between April 1917 and November 1918. To add to the sorrow, many young men came home and soon died from the Spanish flu.

Two of my uncles came home from "Over There" in France, took off their uniforms, settled down and went to work. One continued working on the family farm, and until he died. The other parlayed his musical ability into organizing a jazz band, and later became a professor at DePaul University in Chicago.

Like most of our veterans who served while under fire in combat, neither talked about their experiences. They saved that for later when they gathered with fellow comrades at the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War halls. Only a veteran could truly understand what another veteran was saying and, sometimes more importantly, not saying.

In 1939, 20 years after the armistice, their Legion peers bought an expensive bottle of brandy they kept on a locked shelf. Whenever a member died, they would open a much cheaper bottle of brandy for a toast.

Each member had his own shot glass on a shelf in the cabinet. Turned up meant he was still among the living; turned down meant they had "gone west."

The special bottle was the "Tontine," a way of remembering their comrades. The last surviving member was expected to open it, toast all those gone, then pour out the remaining liquor on the cenotaph in the city park the following Nov. 11.

A great attribute of our country is that we honor our veterans. That cannot be said of all nations, and there is a long and horrible history of abuse.

After the British Navy sank the Spanish Armada in 1588, instead of being thanked by Queen Elizabeth, the sailors were herded onto the Fleet Prison ships and kept there for years.

After World War II, repatriated Russians captured by the Germans or held in camps by the Allies were either executed or sent to the gulags.

Other countries may be less harsh to their veterans, but tare wary of them. After all, someone who has been in uniform, whether during peace times or war, knows how to use weapons. They could prove to be a danger to their national leaders. Tyrants and dictators closely monitored their veterans and made life hard for many of them.

Here, we honor our veterans, even if we tend to get stingy about providing the benefits promised to them. After the Civil War, veterans who wanted to move west could receive land, as well as the pension benefits promised by President Lincoln in 1862. A bonus was promised to the returning Doughboys in 1918, but payments were delayed.

All this changed in 1944. While World War II was still being fought, President Roosevelt set in motion a benefits plan for returning service personnel. Key components were healthcare, housing and education.

Those benefits continue to this day for people who have served in peacetime and war. In many ways, it has proven to be one of the best things our country could ever do.

Veterans used GI benefits to go to school and in time became engineers, doctors, teachers and businesspeople. They went to trade schools and used their training to build this country. They bought homes and pumped money into the economy. They could do this and more because the government did the right thing.

To its credit, the U.S. is trying to do the right thing, but to truly honor our veterans it takes more than the best efforts of our government. That is where you and I come in.

It is a great experience to be recognized. Think of it in terms of the theme song from the TV series "Cheers." We all want a place where everyone knows our name. We all want to be the character, where, whenever he walks in the door the crowd shouts our name in joy to see us.

That is what our veterans want as well, especially the older ones. Many have attended services for old comrades, and with each passing year they realize there are fewer of them.

If you attend a Veterans Day ceremony you'll be sure to see some of the men and women who proudly wore our nation's uniforms. This is a great opportunity to move beyond the usual "Thank you for your service" and ask questions about where they served, what they did, about food, USO entertainment or anything else. The important thing is to make the connection personal.

We are more indebted to our veterans than many realize. Every one of them took an oath when they were inducted to defend the Constitution and obey all lawfully given orders. That was a promise they made not just for their time in service, but for life. They have continues to fulfill that promise.

Today our country is divided over public policies that have seen agencies sent to cities to arrest those who do not have proper documents to be here. Some of these agencies seem to try proving how tough they are and want to intimidate civilians by hiding behind masks. National Guard troops have been sent to these cities to add a bit of extra intimidation.

Intimidation? I see it differently. We can have a lot more faith and trust in our National Guard than in the rest of them. That is because they still live by that oath.

Thanking our veterans means even more now than at any time since the troops came back from Vietnam. Many did not get so much as a "thank you" and many were booed and even spat upon.

We can do the right thing now because we can trust them to do the right thing.

I know that not everyone can attend a Veterans Day event, but many of us can at least put up the Stars and Stripes in the flag holder at the front of our house, or a flag in the window. If that is all we can do, then we have done all we can. But if you can be present, that is your gift to them.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Congress needs to bet back to work, GOP responsible for fiscal crisis

To the editor:

As we write this rant, (one has to rant in these "unprecedented" times) the government has been shut down for full month with no end in sight. The House of Representatives, aka "The People's House," has been shut down since the middle of September. What a great way to show how government just doesn't work, anymore! The Secretary of Agriculture, Brooke Rollins, put it this way: "My message to Americans is first: the fact that your government is failing you, right now; that poverty is not red or blue; that it is not a Republican or Democrat issue. It doesn't matter who you voted for or even if you voted. If you are in a position where you can't feed your family and you are relying on that $187.00 a month for an average family in a SNAP program, that we have failed you." It's refreshing to hear an administration official tell the truth. Apparently, she didn't get the memo. This is actual policy of the current administration. It is embodied in the Big Ugly Bill, a law that rips away every last scrap of America's social safety net to give welfare to billionaires.

A "clean Continuing Resolution" would only cement these policies. Consider the sentiments of Mike Johnson: "No food for you until Democrats let us take away your healthcare." Contrary to the propaganda we are hearing, only American citizens are able to benefit from the healthcare programs Republicans are eager to destroy. Meanwhile, everybody's health insurance is going through the ceiling, the shutdown continues, the House is on vacation, and we have a felon occupying our White House (what's left of it) when he's not aimlessly wandering around the world in a demented haze. The rest of us can pull ourselves up by our bootstraps as soon as we can afford to buy boots.

How's the policy of vitriol and retribution working out for the Republican Party? Polls suggest they are getting the blame for ripping away healthcare. Also, it seems that Americans really like making sure their neighbors have food on their tables. Democrats are fighting to resolve these issues. In the period from the day the Big Ugly Bill was signed to today, the national debt increased by 1 trillion dollars. That is in spite of American consumers paying hefty Trump taxes (tariffs).

It is past time for the rich to pay their fair share. To that end, The House of Representatives must return to work and actually do the People's work. Looking at you, Mr. Huizenga.

On a closing note, we commend you for the nice writeup on the No Kings event.

Contact elected officials and tell them to support healthcare.

Sen. Chuck Schumer: (202) 224-654

Bill Huizenga:
Holland office (616) 251-6741
Portage office (269) 569-8595
DC office (202) 225-4401

Mike Johnson:
DC office (202) 225-2777

William and Mary Jones

Trump Blames President For Shutdown

To the Editor,

I read Abigail Nobel's letter in the October 23rd edition of the Allegan County News. She blamed Sen. Peters ("Peters") and Sen. Slotkin ("Slotkin") for the federal government shutdown "to get $1.5 trillion for Big Insurance and illegals." She noted that it's easy to give away other people's money. I have a few thoughts on the matter.

The Republican Party presently controls the White House, the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Democratic Party is in the minority. During the shutdown of 2013, lasting sixteen (16) days, Donald Trump ("Trump") criticized President Obama arguing that the president is responsible for a shutdown and must be a leader who can negotiate a deal. According to Trump, the president is responsible for a shutdown and must be a leader who can negotiate a deal. Per Trump, the president is responsible. The president. Trump said that the problems start from the top. Many decades ago, President Truman had a sign on his desk that read "The Buck Stops Here."

Fact: Undocumented immigrants (i.e. illegals) cannot get health insurance through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace. It is restricted to citizens. If Peters and Slotkin are advocating for lower health insurance costs for Michigan residents, bless them. Peters and Slotkin appear to care about the forty-five

(45) million Americans who access, the ACA Marketplace.

While blaming Peters and Slotkin for the shutdown, one might as well blame them for several other matters.

Let's blame Peters and Slotkin for not settling the Russian- Ukraine war before Trump even arrived at the Oval Office on January 20, 2025.

Let's blame Peters and Slotkin for not creating massive economic growth but instead creating massive layoffs and job losses. Amazon, UPS, Intel, Microsoft, Target, Starbucks and others are laying off massive numbers. Trump has paused reporting on labor numbers. There is no massive economic growth in the country as promised by Trump.

Let's blame Peters and Slotkin for not ending inflation and lowering prices. Trump said in August 2024 at his club in New Jersey that when he wins, he will immediately bring prices down. Immediately. At Village Market, check out current gas, egg and coffee prices. It's November. Are prices down? Hells Bells, Trump illegally tariffed Brazilian coffee because their leaders had the gall to prosecute a corrupt politician.

Let's blame Peters and Slotkin for not making government more efficient. Instead of eliminating purported gross fraud, waste and abuse, Trump has taken it over for himself. He runs the executive branch like a Mafia don. DOGE's reporting is riddled with errors and misleading claims. The USA has never seen

corruption on the scale that Trump has brought with him to the White House. The country has become Trump's personal ATM.

Let's blame Peters and Slotkin for not releasing the entire Jeffrey Epstein files. Trump promised on FOX News in June 2024 that he would declassify the Epstein files. In February 2025, Attorney General Bondi said that an Epstein "client list" was "sitting on my desk." Let's blame Peters and Slotkin for protecting pedophiles so long as they are wealthy and connected.

The Wizard of Oz was a con man from Omaha, Nebraska. His name was Oscar Zoroaster for "Oz" for short. His hot air balloon carried him to the land of Oz by accident. He maintained the illusion he was all powerful for years. Dorothy's dog, Toto, pulled back the curtain he was hiding behind to show that he was just an ordinary man. The Wizard of Oz had all of the Munchkins in fear of him. It took a dog to blow his cover.

When I see Trump, I think of the Wizard of Oz. There are, I believe, two hundred nineteen (219) Republicans in the House of Representatives and fifty-three (53) Republican Senators. Dorothy's dog, Toto, has more courage than ninety-nine percent (99%) of these Congressmen. Trump could walk outside naked and they would say "Great tie, Mr. President."

Whatever happened to kindness and empathy? Whatever happened to the existence of three (3) co-equal branches of government? Can one wonder if the full release of all of the Epstein files will help the modern day Munchkins find their spines? Speaker Mike Johnson cut and ran out of Washington, D.C. to avoid any votes on the Epstein files. To my knowledge, he has not returned any paychecks since he left town. Whatever happened to the US Constitution being the supreme law of the land?

Vilius Kampas

The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

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P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St.
Allegan, MI 49010-0189 (269) 673-5534
e-mail: Wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com Web site: www.wilcoxnewspapers.com

Published weekly by The Allegan County News. R. Michael Wilcox publisher. Subscriptions: $55 per year in county; $55 per year in Michigan; $70 out of state; Foreign rates upon request. Periodicals postage paid at Allegan, MI 49010. Postal Publication No. 013-700. Postmaster: Send address corrections to The Allegan County News, P.O. Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010-0189.

Otsego & Plainwell UNION ENTERPRISE

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P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St., Allegan, MI 49010-0189
(269) 673-5534
e-mail: Wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com Web site: www.wilcoxnewspapers.com

Published weekly by The Union Enterprise. R. Michael Wilcox publisher. Subscriptions: $55 per year in Allegan County. $55 in Michigan; $70 out of state. Periodicals postage paid at Allegan, MI 49010 and at additional mailing office Postal Publication No. 413600. Postmaster: Send address corrections to Union Enterprise, P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St., Allegan MI 49010

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ADVERTISING DEADLINES
4 P.M. Monday

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Obituaries

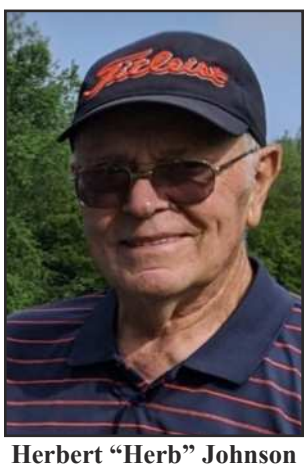
Herbert "Herb" Johnson

Herbert "Herb" Johnson passed on Thursday, October 30, 2025. Herb was born to his late parents Verlin and Eva (Burke) Johnson on May 14, 1936, in Allegan, MI.

After graduating from Bloomingdale High School, Herb earned a bachelor's degree from Ferris State University, and then a master's degree in education from Michigan State University.

Herb then began teaching at Martin High School and remained there until his retirement 33 years later. While at Martin, Herb taught office practices, accounting, typing and was a beloved track and basketball coach. In 1986, he was honored as coach of the year. Herb was later inducted into the Martin High School Hall of Fame. Herb was competitive and loved coaching as much as teaching and guiding his students and players towards successful lives.

Outside of teaching, Herb, with his brothers Ken and Jim, enjoyed playing golf. In 1967, Herb designed a layout for an 18-Hole golf course. The brothers then bought property in Cheshire Township, built and opened the first 9-Holes in 1972, calling it Cheshire Hills Golf Course. A few years later, they added another nine to make 18-Holes. In the early 90's, a driving range and nine more holes were added creating the present day 27-Hole layout.



Herbert "Herb" Johnson

Herb was also passionate about Camp Kidwell in Bloomingdale, MI, believing in their mission serving youth while being an active board member, fundraiser, and donor.

Herb was an avid sports fan. He loved watching and attending the Lions, Tigers, Red Wings, and his Spartans. Herb was a kind, driven, and hard-working man who leaves a legacy of generosity in his wake.

He is survived by his brother Kenny (Marcia) Johnson; nieces and nephews Alan (Terri) Johnson, Melissa Johnson, Blythe Cummings, Dean Johnson, Justin Johnson and Beth (Mike) Day; great-niece Tiffany Johnson and special family members Steven, Brianna and Eastyn Johnson.

He is preceded in death by his parents Verlin and Eva and brothers, Jim Johnson and Harry Johnson.

A celebration of life will take place on June 13, 2026, at Cheshire Hills Golf Course. Details to be announced as the date approaches.

Patricia Ann Sinn-Clemens

Patricia Ann Sinn-Clemens, age 91, of Lebanon, Ohio, passed away peacefully on October 29, 2025, at West Chester Hospital in West Chester, OH.

Patricia was born January 11, 1934, in Whitehouse, Ohio, the daughter of Chester and Pearl (Studer) Kinsey. She grew up in Van Wert, Ohio and graduated from Van Wert High School in 1951. Patricia went on to earn her undergraduate degree at Bowling Green State University and, later in life, her master's degree from Eastern Michigan University.

She married Robert W. Sinn in June 1954 in Van Wert, OH. Together they raised three children—Holly, Stuart, and Robert. They made their home in many places over the years, but mainly in the Plainwell, MI area. Patricia and Robert also enjoyed their time at their home on Sugarloaf Lake in Chelsea, MI and were members of the United Methodist Church for many years. They were devoted Michigan football fans and season ticket holders for many years. Patricia and Robert shared

Patricia Ann Sinn-Clemens

39 years of marriage before his passing in 1993.

In October 1996, Patricia married Ralph B. Clemens, and together they enjoyed traveling the world and spending time with family and friends. He passed away in December 2019.

Patricia dearly loved her family and spoke of them often with pride and affection. She was an avid reader, and when her eyesight dimmed, loved to listen to books on audiotape. She loved cooking and baking, and she enjoyed making Christmas cookies and her famous Snickerdoodles.

Patricia is survived by a daughter, Holly Sinn-Bailey, of Kenton, OH; son, Robert (Francine) Sinn, of Lisle, IL; five grandchildren: Christopher (Leslie), Kevlin (Ethan), Adrian (Andrew), Dylan (Victoria), and Jacob (Carissa); and two great-grandchildren, Georgette and Viola. She is also survived by her sister, Carol Kinsey.

In addition to her first husband, Robert Sinn, and second husband, Ralph Clemens, Patricia was preceded in death by a son, Stuart Sinn, in 2014, as well as her brother, Richard Kinsey, and sister, Marilyn Poore.

A funeral service will be held on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home, Chelsea, MI, with visitation from 10:00–11:00 a.m. prior to the service.

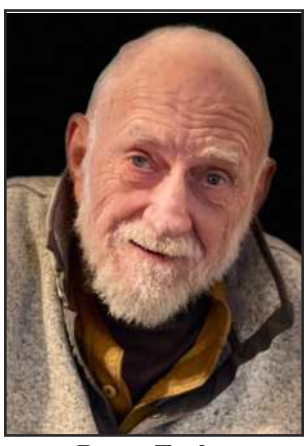
Memorial contributions may be made to Otterbein-Lebanon United Methodist Church, 585 N State Route 741, Lebanon, OH 45036.

Arrangements by Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home, Chelsea, MI.

Bryan Taylor

Bryan Taylor passed away peacefully at home on October 29th, 2025. Bryan was born in Chicago on November 26th, 1938, to his parents Elaine (Drabik) and Wilson Taylor. After graduating high school from St. Rita's, he enrolled in the U.S. Marine Corps which he credits with developing many of his best traits. After being honorably discharged, he made use of the G.I. Bill and earned his B.A. from Roosevelt University and was the first member of his family to earn a college degree. He taught English in the Chicago Public Schools where he met Carol (Sanders) whom he married in 1974. Shortly thereafter, they moved to Allegan to begin a life on the farm.

For years, Bryan made his own wine from California grapes and became excited about the prospects of raising French and New York hybrid grapes in Michigan. He and Carol launched



Bryan Taylor

Taylor Ridge Vineyards and began a business specializing in providing juice to home winemakers, a service they provided to their customers and local wineries for 50 years. They also raised pigs, goats, and cattle while harvesting the corn and hay for their feed.

Bryan was a true renaissance man! In addition to teaching and farming, he also worked as a human resources officer at a large hospital, a tour guide in the Rocky Mountains, a deckhand on the Ore Boats of Lake Superior, and a trim carpenter. He built the family home, wrote poetry, served as a lay reader at the Episcopal Church, and studied history and the German language. He loved farm auctions, the county fair, meals at Minnie's, and white wine. Hiking was a treasured hobby, particularly in Arizona where he and Carol spent several winters, and he descended the Grand Canyon numerous times (including at the age of 72 with a 30lb backpack). But, Bryan was never happier than when he was fishing with friends and family. No trip was "vacation" without a rod, dry flies, some worms, or a Rapala. His favorite spots included Emerson Lake, Isle Royale, and the Wind River mountains of Wyoming. Ultimately, he dug and stocked his own fishpond where he spent his final years hauling in oversized bluegills, bass, and catfish.

Bryan is survived by his wife of 52 years, Carol; his son John; his daughter-in-law Rachael; two grandsons, Helly and Matteo; and many friends. He was preceded in death by his father Wilson and mother Elaine as well as several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Bryan's memorial service will be held on November 6th at Gorden Funeral Home (528 Trowbridge Street in Allegan, MI) at 11:00 a.m. with visitation to begin at 10:00 a.m. Graveside Service will follow with military honors at Lindsley Cemetery in Chesire Township.

Donald "Don" Steele

Donald "Don" Steele passed away Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at his home on Pine Lake. He was born November 6, 1936, the son of Howard and Theo (Lytle) Steele.

Don's early years were spent working on the family dairy farm. He graduated from Plainwell High School in 1954 and proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force. He furthered his education by obtaining a master's degree from Western Michigan University, setting the foundation for a long and fulfilling career in education.

For over 40 years, Don was devoted to teaching at Parkwood Upjohn Elementary School in Kalamazoo until his retirement in the early 2000s. Don's impact extended beyond the classroom, fostering relationships that would last long after his teaching years.

Donald "Don" Steele

Don enjoyed woodworking, hiking and reading. He loved working out and found camaraderie and friendship at Repz Gym, which he considered his second family.

On February 2, 1964, Don married the love of his life, Donna Daggett, in Cooper Township. Together, they built a beautiful family and shared a life filled with love, laughter, and lasting memories. Don is survived by his beloved wife, Donna, and their children: Jeff (Debi) Steele of Plainwell, Wendy (Mike) Wallace of Plainwell, Rusty (Christina) Steele of Texas, and Dawn (Rick) Baad of Mattawan; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his sisters, Nina and Noreen, along with his brothers, Robert (Mike) and Bruce.

According to his wishes cremation has taken place.

Messages of condolence may be posted at www.WinkelFuneralHome.com.

William Joseph Damber

William Joseph Damber

11/16/1959-10/23/2025

Bill was born in Allegan Michigan and in his early 20s moved around living in Tennessee, Arkansas, and many other states before settling in Florida for 20 some years, and then moved back to Allegan in his 50s.

He was self employed for many years in home repairs and handy man. He was an avid hunter and loved guns but his biggest passion was riding his Harley Davidson!

Bill served in the Army for 4 years (1984-1987).

Proceeded in death by his parents Edward and Dorthy Damber, and his wife Linda (Cornell) Damber.

Survived by his sister Judy Hulst, Joanne Gillette, and brother Edward Damber Jr and many nieces and nephews and step children Missy and Chad And a step granddaughter Chelsea. And many many friends

WILD BILL. You will be greatly missed

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150751

LIVING WITH GRIEF

BY RONNIE EWING/ AFTERCARE SPECIALIST

LIVING WITH GRIEF, is a monthly column provided by GordenFuneral Residence. Each month LIVING WITH GRIEF will feature some helpful advice as you the reader move forward through your personal grieving process, or simply want to be educated to help those whom you may know have recently experienced a loss, or traumatic event.

Self Care, I cannot stress the importance of this subject. In my short time working in the Funeral business world I have seen this one investment of personal care go to the wayside. Long hours, personel connection to families we serve, the list could go on. But the fatigue, trauma, stress that those in the assembly line of caring get hit, just as much or more than the average Joe or Jane to be politically correct. Self Care is so important, and it is not just based on getting the proper amount of sleep, or eating the right things. It is also important to putting your mind through a plan as well. It is known through out the Neuroscience world that the person we talk to the most is ourselves. In words that have no outward sound, but in time begin to produce fruit in our lives the whole world can see. Take care of yourself!!! You are so important to this life!!! Your impact, inspiration, gifts, talent. So priceless!!! Be good to yourself!!!

Famous poet Walt Whitman shared these words that echoe through my mind whenever life gets heavy…. "WHAT GOOD AMID OF THESE, OME O LIFE? THAT YOU ARE HERE, THAT LIFE EXISTS AND IDENTITY THAT POWERFUL PLAY GOES ON AND YOU MAY CONTRIBUTE A VERSE. WHAT WILL YOUR VERSE BE?" As you continue Living With Grief.

Gorden Funeral Residence

SUPPORTING THE JOURNEY
Something Needs to Change
You don't have to do it alone. When staying at home is no longer the best option for your aging loved one, Golden Orchards can help you navigate the journey. Like an extension of your family, we offer expert guidance and heartfelt support every step of the way.
Our dedicated team will take the time to understand your loved one's needs and preferences and create a personalized plan that helps them live their best life. Through compassionate care, engaging activities, and a welcoming community, we will help your family embrace this new chapter with confidence.
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Six specialty courts available to offenders

By Gari Voss

Allegan County offers six specialty court programs that can assist individuals who wish to gain the skills to become productive members of their community. By understanding each of the courts and their related programs, participants and the wider Allegan County community can look at areas such as the Friend of the Court and Drug Treatment Court in a brighter light. There is a stigma that courts are to punish rather than assist offenders. This is not the case. These judicial programs can assist offenders and their families as they offer a sense of community.

The overall goal of the judicial system is to create a safe, productive environment for all residents. This environment goes out of sync when people break the laws to a point where they end up before a judge in the judicial system. In short, the goal of the judicial system is to administer justice with fairness, equality, and integrity, resolve matters in a timely manner, and uphold the rule of law.

The goal is accomplished in a number of ways. It begins with providing justice, so residents have access to the court system including appropriate information and resources. Disputes, whether civil suits, criminal matters, family issues, or probate concerns, need to be resolved in an impartial forum. All individuals must be treated fairly and with consistency.

While there are times when punitive actions must be taken, one of the most important functions of the court system it to promote rehabilitation for offenders. Rehabilitation may begin in a juvenile center or in community justice programs. In Allegan County, there are six specialty courts that can assist with rehabilitation. The six are divided between the 48th Judicial Circuit Court and the Allegan County 57th District Court.

During a round table discussion with leaders from each of the specialty courts, the resounding desire rested on assisting people get back on track – for themselves, their families, and their communities. The overall success of an individual depends on several major factors – their desire to make a change in their life patterns and some guidance from the lawyers and judges to get the individual on the appropriate path. In addition, offenders with positive family support tend to get back on their feet more quickly.

Support systems are important in the recovery process. When people attend support groups on a regular basis, they tend to create their own support system. Though this is not their biological family, they create groups with each other, with a church, or their own "family" that is not biological. Trying to "go it alone" is difficult, and the case managers and officers have detected that participants with no support system tend to struggle. Rebuilding relationships with supportive ex-spouses and children when possible is extremely important. Each program has a mentor or case manager who can listen and assist when needed.

"An important component is the judicial involvement," shared Circuit Court Administrator Jennifer Brink. "Our justices are extremely invested in these programs, and it takes a judge who cares to work with the offenders on each step of recovery."

"Each court, Circuit and District, has particular niches and helps in different ways. The idea is to steer the individuals to the best fit for them," shared District Court Administrator Laurie Tange.

Case Manager Hickory Buell added that a feeling of success comes when court staff see "people getting into rehab programs when they have been suffering from addiction or mental illness most of their life but never had the guidance to figure out the problems and address them."

Another plus came from Special Enforcement Officer Kate McKee, "We [in Alternate Contempt Track] can steer them to the appropriate resources. OnPoint helps with housing, mental health, and substance abuse. Arbor Circle assists with counselling. Community Links, Christian Neighbors, and others are available to the participants I work with in Friend of the Court."

McKee continued, "I tend to refer them to resources according to where they live. Many do not have drivers licenses so there are transportation insecurities. Getting them to use the Allegan County Transport bus to get to resources in Allegan County is helpful. Referrals out of the county tend to cause greater stress."

When examining who becomes involved in the programs, those around the table agreed that it is a mixed bag. The age range can be from the early twenties into the fifties. Some offenders are single, but many are in some kind of relationship. These relationships flourish or change depending upon the program or the level of recovery that an individual has reached. There may be a spouse or ex-spouse or children.

During the process, successful participants seek to build relationships with small peer groups who understand the problems and the difficulties with breaking engrained habits. That may require cutting ties with past "friends" or family members and creating new bonds with positive influencers. No matter the age, the offence, or the program, the path to recovery requires determination to keep moving forward.

48th Judicial Circuit Court Specialty Programs

Allegan Treatment Court (ATC), formerly Drug Court, was recently reestablished as a voluntary program. The targeted participants have struggled to overcome the misuse of drugs and/or alcohol. Those assigned to this specialty court will be involved for a minimum of 17 months. There are five phases that focus on providing structure, accountability, support, and access to services. As participants advance through the program, requirements gradually decrease.

Drug Treatment Court Case Manager Shawn Gillum explained, "We have just reinstated the specialty court substance use disorder program, so we are hopeful. Rather than incarceration, ATC provides a pathway for those with substance abuse disorders. Arbor Circle does an assessment that will consider drug history and type of drug use then suggest the appropriate course of treatment, and participants are required to follow the recommendation."

An interested individual must be 18 or older, be an Allegan County resident, be a moderate to severe substance abuser, have pled guilty to the charge, is not on probation in another jurisdiction, and has not attended ATC in the past 3 years.

All phases of ATC require regular drug and alcohol testing, court check ins with Judge Emily Jipp, work with a case manager, attending recovery activities and meetings, and random home visits. It is an arduous process with Phase 1 requiring a minimum of 30 days, Phase 2 a minimum of 90 days, Phase 3 a minimum of 6 months, Phase 4 a minimum of 4 months, and Phase 5 a minimum of 3 months that concludes with creating an after care plan, writing a narrative for commencement, then commencement.

The Alternative Contempt Track (ACT) is a voluntary program presided over by Judge Margaret Zuzich Bakker and related to the Friend of the Court. "This program gives individuals in the child support system an opportunity to rebuild stability in their lives," explained Specialized Enforcement Officer Kate McKee. "It helps participants avoid jail time and instead focuses on support and growth. For those facing challenges such as mental health concerns, substance use, or homelessness, ACT provides a year of guidance and resources—pausing enforcement on their case so they can focus on getting back on their feet, securing employment, and finding stable housing, with the ultimate goal of helping them successfully meet their support obligations."

Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation works with the probation program and is under the watchful eye of Judge Bakker. Swift and Sure is a nationwide model that began as "The Hope" in Hawaii and is for those who have been unsuccessful with probation in the past.

"We call it intensive probation," Probation Coordinator Katie St John offered. "Individuals meet with their probation officer, and I am their extra support. Individuals get sentenced to Swift and Sure on their original sentencing date. Probation Officer Shannon Dobbins works with me hand-in-hand. She runs their regular probation through Swift and Sure. We can assist in getting participants mental health and substance abuse treatment. They have extra visits with me to receive help finding or applying for a job and other things they may not know how to do because of their history. I can help them with that or refer them to a community resource that can help them as well. As part of their probation order, they must live in Allegan County and maintain a job. In addition, they must find a place to live in Allegan County. We want them to mimic a normal life. We help them get food resources to start that process. There are clients who share that they never knew that they could hold a job and save money because they were raised by parents who were using. That shows the program is actually working and is giving people opportunities that they never had."

Allegan County 57th District Court Specialty Courts

Mental Health Treatment Court is designed for offenders who qualify for a mental health disorder such as depression, schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder or bipolar disorder. Others may have a developmental disability or have a high risk or need. These participants often lack a capacity to understand the requirements of a program or follow court orders while struggling with substance use disorders. These Allegan County residents pay a $200 program fee in addition to court fines and costs.

The Mental Health Treatment Program contains two phases that the court reviews every other week on Friday afternoon with the Honorable Judge Joseph Skocelas. Participants focus on following their treatment plan which includes abstaining from all substance use including medical marijuana, taking prescribed medications, and having random testing. Judge Skocelas runs the program with Case Manager Alison Schuyler of OnPoint, who is the member of the treatment team helping track clients.

Sobriety Treatment Court requires a minimum of 15 months for repeat Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) offenders. These Allegan County residents have no history of serious violent behavior or felony weapon charges, but alcohol and/or drug addiction or serious substance abuse patterns are evident. The program fee is $1,200 in addition to fines and other court costs.

There are 4 phases to Sobriety Treatment Court with court reviews every other Monday morning with Judge Christopher Burnett and Case Manager Hickory Buell. Participants must abstain from all substance use including medical marijuana, adhere to their treatment plan, attend support group meetings, participate in community service, and if possible, have the ability to obtain a restricted driver's license after 45 days and have an interlock device.

West Michigan Regional Veterans Treatment Court (Allegan, Ottawa & Van Buren Counties) coordinates services with the Veterans Administration (VA) to assist veterans in getting what they need. Case Manager Buell shared, "Our liaison is Westside Liaison out of Grand Rapids. We can also help veterans find local services and assist with transportation. Some of the vets do not even know what their problem is, so it is extremely important to identify the problem then locate the service. Through this program, participants can build a strong peer support bond."

The participants in the Veterans Treatment Court must be in one of 1965 PA 190, MCL 35.61, and serve at least 180 days of active duty. Many of the offenses are related to conditions or injuries related to military service and include moderate to severe substance use disorder or physical and/or mental illness related to military service. Participants must plead guilty to the identified offence and meet MCL 600.1200(m) standard which excludes violent offenders. The $500 program fee is added to other fines and court costs.

Veterans Treatment Court consists of 4 phases that have court review every other Monday morning by Judge Emily Jipp which will transition to Judge Burnett. Throughout these phases, participants must abstain from all substances including medical marijuana, follow their treatment program, participate in community service, and if possible, have the ability to get a restricted driver's license. Repeat OWI offenders may get a driver's license with an interlock device after 45 days.

Hope for Recovery

Gillum summed up the opportunities of the specialty court as providing people with hope. "People come into the system and are used to punishment and sanctions. We try to provide people with more hope. In fact, one of the best practice standards is providing more incentives than sanctions. We help them stay clean, stay sober, and become involved in recovery groups. Recovery groups try to find entertainment or social options for their clients. When possible, we help identify options to keep people engaged."

From the judges

As each court administrator and case manager shared, the judges who preside over the specialty courts have a passion and determination to move offenders out of the judicial system and into a positive community role.

Judge Margaret Bakker shared, "I am impressed with the success of the ACT and Swift and Sure Programs. It is a true joy to see individuals overcome substantial barriers by putting the work in with their case managers who help to provide a pathway to success."

This sentiment was reiterated by Judge Emily Jipp, "I am excited that we have officially launched the Allegan Treatment Court (ATC). The specialty court is dedicated to helping individuals break free from substance abuse and rebuild their lives. ATC is designed for non-violent offenders struggling with addiction – particularly methamphetamine. The 17-month minimum, five-phase program provides structure, accountability, and support through regular drug testing, recovery meetings, and court review.

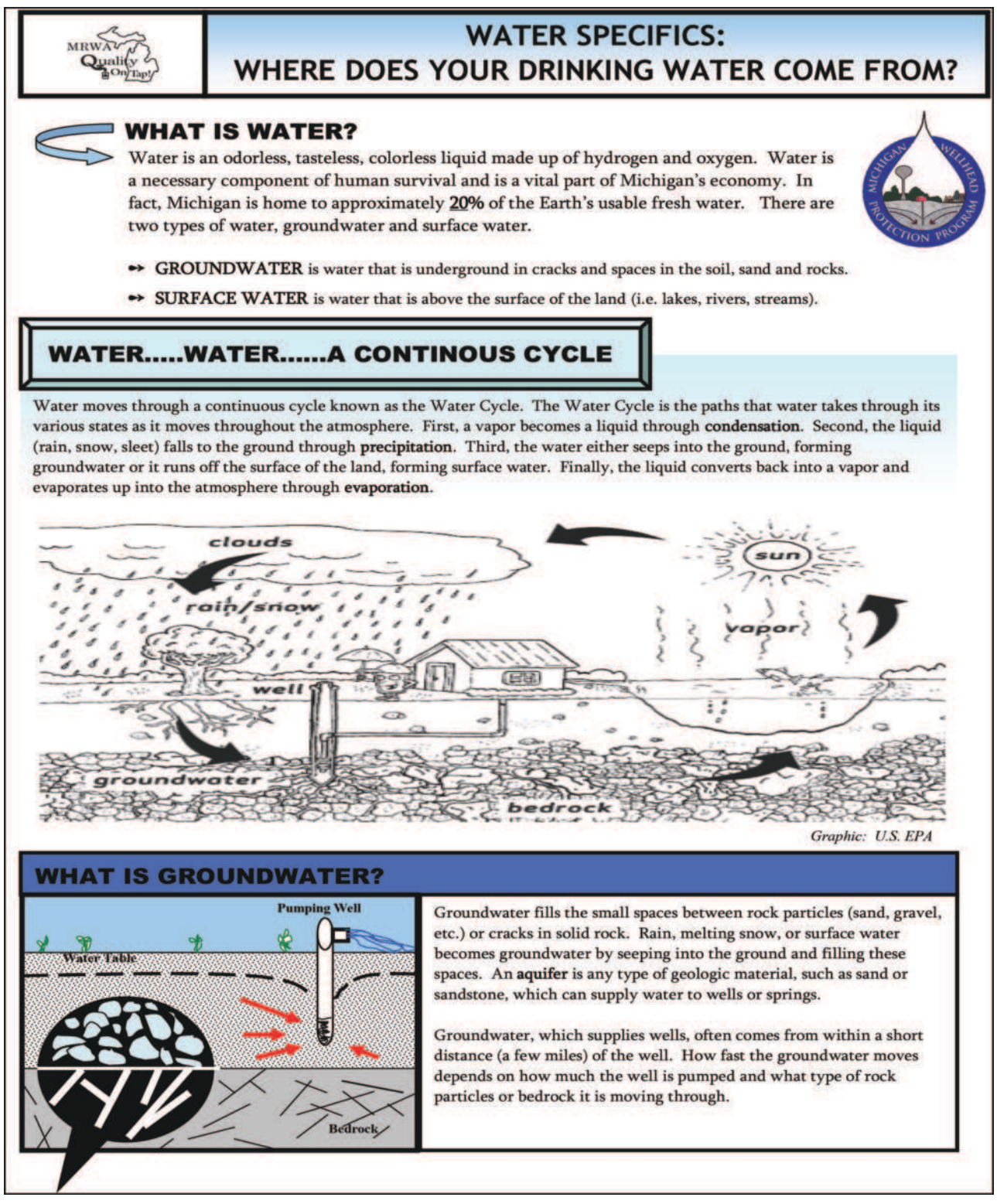
"This important programming is the result of a strong community partnership among the Michigan Department of Corrections, the Prosecutor and Defense offices, Allegan County Community Mental Health, and dedicated court staff. By all working together, we will guide participants toward lasting recovery, reduced repeat offenses, and stronger families across Allegan County."

Additional Opportunities Bench Warrant Clinic

On Thursday, November 20, 2025, there will be a Bench Warrant Amnesty Day held at the First Baptist Church at 1290 M-40 South /32nd Street, Noon to 3pm. Anyone with a Friend of the Court Bench Warrant can come with cash only. It is an opportunity to pay "something" so the warrant can be resolved. There will be no police officers. People will be available to take the payment and create a plan to pay what is required.

Clothing Closet

The court staff have created a free clothing closet of professional clothes that can be used by anyone in one of the programs. The clothing is focused on use for seeking employment such as interviews and can be obtained by coming to the Court House and making a request.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Water is an odorless, tasteless, colorless liquid made up of hydrogen and oxygen. Water is a necessary component of human survival and is a vital part of Michigan's economy. In fact, Michigan is home to approximately 20% of the Earth's usable fresh water. There are two types of water, groundwater and surface water.
MICHIGAN WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAM
GROUNDWATER is water that is underground in cracks and spaces in the soil, sand and rocks.
SURFACE WATER is water that is above the surface of the land (i.e. lakes, rivers, streams).
WATER.....WATER.....A CONTINOUS CYCLE
Water moves through a continuous cycle known as the Water Cycle. The Water Cycle is the paths that water takes through its various states as it moves throughout the atmosphere. First, a vapor becomes a liquid through condensation. Second, the liquid (rain, snow, sleet) falls to the ground through precipitation. Third, the water either seeps into the ground, forming groundwater or it runs off the surface of the land, forming surface water. Finally, the liquid converts back into a vapor and evaporates up into the atmosphere through evaporation.
clouds
sun
rain/snow
vapor
well
groundwater
bedrock
Graphic: U.S. EPA
WHAT IS GROUNDWATER?
Pumping Well
Water Table
Bedrock
Groundwater fills the small spaces between rock particles (sand, gravel, etc.) or cracks in solid rock. Rain, melting snow, or surface water becomes groundwater by seeping into the ground and filling these spaces. An aquifer is any type of geologic material, such as sand or sandstone, which can supply water to wells or springs.
Groundwater, which supplies wells, often comes from within a short distance (a few miles) of the well. How fast the groundwater moves depends on how much the well is pumped and what type of rock particles or bedrock it is moving through.

NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING
City of Allegan

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Allegan, Michigan, shall on November 10, 2025, at 6:00 PM, at the City Council Chambers, Allegan City Hall 231 Trowbridge Street, Allegan, Michigan, hold a public hearing on the following item:

1. Ordinance 532 to amend the City of Allegan Zoning Map to rezone parcels 03-51-200-016-00 and 03-51-235- 004-00 (Former Girl Scouts Property) from MDR Mixed Density Residential to GSPUD Girls Scout Planned Unit Development.

At that time and place, the City Council shall hear and consider comments, concerns, statements, information, or other communications concerning the proposed amendment to the City of Allegan Code of Ordinances. Please send all written comments to the address listed below. Comments can also be sent to ccanales@cityofallegan.org by 5:00PM on November 10, 2025.

Allegan City Hall is barrier free. The City of Allegan will provide necessary auxiliary aids and services for persons with disabilities, such as signers for hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at a city meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring such services should contact the City Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

City of Allegan
231 Trowbridge Street
Allegan MI 49010
(269) 673-5511

AHS Drama presents Alice Austen's drama, Girls in the Boat

By Gari Voss & Kim Sparks

Allegan High Drama is proud to announce its fall production of *Girls in the Boat*, a compelling play by Alice Austen, a Milwaukee-based writer and filmmaker who wrote *Girls in the Boat* after being inspired by the 1976 Yale women's rowing team and their protest for equal facilities.

The play will be performed at the Allegan Performing Arts Center on Friday, November 14 and Saturday, November 15, 2025, at 7:00pm. Tickets are $5.00 general seating with a $3 special for any sports team, current or former, who attend the show together. Tickets can be purchased from the cast and crew or at the door the night of the performance.

Inspired by the true stories of the many U.S. women's Olympic rowing teams, *Girls in the Boat* follows a determined group of smart and fiery young women from the early 70s through 2016 as they fight for their place in a sport dominated by men. Faced with discrimination and preconceived notions, the women find an unlikely ally in a men's coach, and together they challenge the status quo with their protests ultimately inspiring change under the 1972 pivotal federal Title IX.

"This play offers us the opportunity to tell a little known story about women's athletics while also providing the cast and crew, many who are athletes themselves, with a deeper understanding of how Title IX impacted not only them but the many other women in their lives. My hope is that audiences will walk away appreciating how this group of women rowers affected change for the better of all women in athletics," said Director Kim Sparks.

To prepare for the physically demanding and historically-grounded production, the cast met with the Grand Valley State University rowing club coach Kyle Barnhart to learn proper rowing techniques, and with former Allegan graduate and athlete Sue Chappell who shared her story of how Title IX affected her high school and college athletic experience. Actors will simulate rowing on stage, creating a highly physical and engaging theatrical experience.

Cast and crew include Alexys Blank, Alexander Bredeweg, Syra Colburn, Cadel Conrad, Malina Cozort, Eliza DeLaet, Adrian Dulac, Isabella Giovannucci, Alesandra Greig, Kyrstin Herren, Izzy McGowen, Ashlyyn Pullen, Samantha Schumann, and Quinn Turpin. It is directed by Kim Sparks with assistant director Emma Brookhouse providing her talents in costuming, makeup, photography and digital projections. The new PAC manager Jacob Myny joins in with his expertise in sound and lighting design plus scenery.

Girls in the Boat, an historic play by Alice Austen, will be performed by Allegan High Drama on Fri., Nov. 14 and Sat., Nov. 15, 2025, at 7pm in the Allegan Performing Arts Center, 1560 M40 North, Allegan. Inspired by the 1976 Yale women's rowing team, the story relates the challenges faced by a team of girls who broke into a boys' world. Tickets are $5.00 general seating with a $3 special for any sports team, current or former, who attend the show together. Tickets can be purchased from the cast and crew or at the door the night of the performance.

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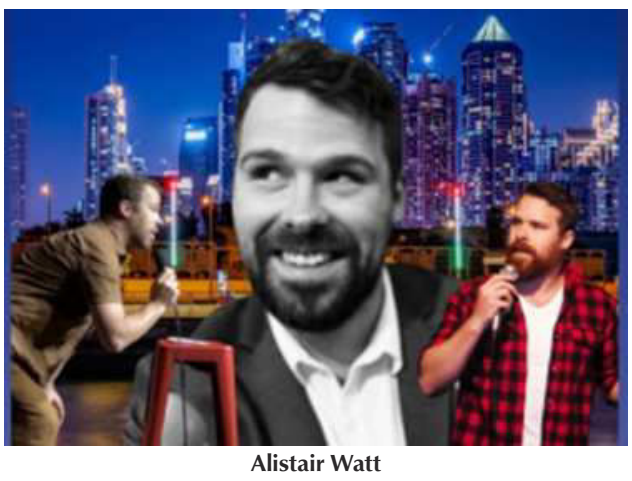
Comedian Alistair Watt entertains at Griswold Auditorium one night only

By Gari Voss

The Griswold Auditorium will be filled with chortling, chuckling, and belly laughing on Friday, November 14, 2025, at 8pm when comedian Alistair Watt takes the stage. Watt describes himself as a Small Town City Boy and is in the midst of his Pure Michigan Stand-Up Comedy Tour with an invitation to join him and his friends for a night of big laughs in a small-town gem.

The evening will be hosted by Katrina McEntee with featured performances by Brittany Devon and Jack Cuncannan. This is a seat ticketed event with tickets beginning at $25. $30 tickets are available along with VIP tickets at $40. Those with VIP status can join the comedians in Tantrick Down Under after the show.

Watt shared, "Hey friends — I'm Alastair Watt, a Michigan-born comic, theater kid, and proud small-town city boy. I've been working on building a stand-up tour through some of Michigan's cutest small towns, historic theaters, breweries, and local venues.



Alistair Watt

"The Small Town City Boy Comedy Tour is all about finding the humor in family, marriage, fatherhood, grief, and the weird moments that make us laugh when we probably shouldn't. From late-night Culver's drive-thru breakdowns to Midwest basement gigs, these are the stories I've collected and turned into a show that's equal parts heartfelt, ridiculous, and just plain fun."

Watt has a unique ability to blend mania, nostalgia, and charm, while turning everyday experiences into side-splitting tales anyone can relate to. He has graced the stage at The Second City, I.O. Chicago, The Annoyance, The Laugh Factory, and multiple comedy festivals. TV credits include appearances on Chicago P.D., Chicago Med., Chicago Fire, and even The Weather Channel.

Raised on a steady diet of slap bracelets, smoking inside, and VHS tapes, Watt brings the hilarity of the '90s into the modern world, navigating the chaos of new parenthood, losing parents, and life's gloriously awkward moments with uncomfortable honesty and punchlines that hit harder than a toddler's tantrum.

Tickets are available at thegriswoldallegan.com or at the door on the night of the show! VIP tickets include exclusive access to the official after party and meet & greet at Tantrick Brewing Co. Down Under at 10PM.

CITY OF FENNVILLE

NOTICE OF CLOSEOUT PUBLIC HEARING FOR MICHIGAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING FOR PARADISE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

City of Fennville will conduct a closeout public hearing on November 17, 2025 at 6 PM at Fennville City Hall - 125 S. Maple St. Fennville, MI 49408 for the purpose of affording citizens an opportunity to submit comments and receive a final report on the completion of the Paradise Park Improvements CDBG grant.

The CDBG grant in the amount of $1,108,170 provided funding to assist in public improvements to Paradise Park, including replacement of a playground, addition of a public restroom, and other park improvements at Paradise Park, 410 N. Maple St. Fennville, MI 49408. The CDBG project benefitted at least 51% low to moderate income persons; 0 persons were displaced as a result of the project.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the project in person at the public hearing or in writing through November 14, 2025 and addressed to Kathryn Beemer, City Administrator

Citizen views and comments on the CDBG project are welcome.

City of Fennville
Kathryn Beemer, City Administrator
269-561-8321

PUBLIC NOTICE

GUN PLAIN CHARTER TOWNSHIP TOWNSHIP BOARD
Ordinance No. 190

To: The residents and property owners of the Township of Gun Plain Charter Township, Allegan County, Michigan and any other interested persons.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Gun Plain Charter Township Board will hold a Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 190 on Thursday December 4, 2025 at 6:00pm at their regular Township Board meeting. Ordinance No. 190 is an Ordinance to adopt Electric Service Franchise Ordinance to read as follows:

ORDINANCE N0. 190

REVOCABLE
ELECTRIC SERVICE FRANCHISE ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE granting to Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc., ("Wolverine" or "Franchisee") its successors and assigns, the right, power, and franchise for a period of thirty (30) years from and after the adoption and approval hereof, to acquire, construct, operate, and maintain in Gun Plain Charter Township, Allegan County, the necessary facilities for the production, transmission, and sale of electric energy at wholesale to its member-distribution cooperatives and between Wolverine and other parties pursuant to wholesale power agreements, and to use and occupy the highways, streets, alleys, and other public places in which the Township has a public interest upon which the parties may agree to in the future, to set poles, string wires, lay pipes or conduits, and to transact an electric business.

BE IT ORDAINED:

Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc., its successors and assigns, is hereby granted and vested with the non-exclusive right, power, and franchise for a period of thirty (30) years from and after the adoption and approval hereof, as provided by law, to acquire, construct, maintain, or operate in the Township of Gun Plain Charter necessary facilities for the production, transmission, and sale of electric energy at wholesale rates to its member-distribution cooperatives and between Wolverine and other parties pursuant to wholesale power agreements, and to construct and maintain along, upon, across, or under the highways, streets, alleys, and other public places in which the Township has a public interest upon which the parties may agree to in the future, to set poles, wires, pipes or conduit and other necessary fixtures and equipment for such purposes within Allegan Township.

1) Revocation. The franchise granted herein is revocable by the Township Board as provided by law.
2) No Injury to Street or Rights of Way. The Franchisee shall not injure any street, highway and alley, or in any manner disturb or interfere with any water, sewer or other utility line, now or hereafter laid or constructed by any authorized person within the public streets or rights of way.
3) Notification & Approval before Commencing Work. The Franchisee, before entering upon any street, highway and alley for the purpose of constructing or installing electric transmission lines or other apparatus, within the public right of way, shall in writing notify the Board of County Road Commissioners of Allegan County, or the Superintendent of said Board, or other proper authority, of the proposed construction, and obtain approval thereof, and shall, if said Board so requires, file with it a sufficient plan and specification of the proposed erection and construction. Upon completion of any construction project, the franchisee shall, to the extent reasonably practical, restore the site to its condition prior to commencement of construction. Furthermore, Franchisee shall notify the Township Board, or its designee, of any new or different transmission lines or other facilities that are to be built in the Gun Plain Charter Township.
4) Construction. The Franchisee shall not allow any street, highway or alley to remain encumbered by the construction work of the said franchisee for a longer period than shall be necessary to execute the said work, and the Board of County Road Commissioners of Allegan County shall determine the question of such necessity.
5) Insurance and Indemnification. The Franchisee shall furnish the Township proof of insurance and indemnify and hold the Township harmless from any and all costs, including reasonable attorney fees incurred by the Township by reason of the Franchisee's acts and omissions in the installation and maintenance of the electric transmission system and other related apparatus or equipment used in the operating of its electric utility business within the Township.
6) Compliance with Laws. The Franchisee shall comply with all applicable safety standards and requirements of the National Electric Safety Code, MI-OSHA and any other appropriate entity, and shall also comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.
7) Compliance with Zoning. At all times, Franchisee shall comply with the requirements of the Gun Plain Charter Township or Allegan County Zoning Ordinance, if applicable, with respect to any of its installations, operations, and non-power line structures, including, but not limited to meter houses, storage sheds, and other similar roofed buildings within electric distribution and transmission substations.
8) Assignment. The Franchise granted by this Ordinance may be assigned by the Franchisee upon written consent of the Township, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. It shall be reasonable for the Township to withhold consent if the proposed assignee does not have an equal or superior financial condition as that of the Franchisee.
9) Effective Date. This Ordinance will take effect upon publication of the Ordinance pursuant to applicable law.

Ranger earns Reserve Champion honors at state finals

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Plainwell High School senior Aidan Ranger competed at the Michigan Interscholastic Horsemanship Association State Championship and came away with Reserve Champion honors. (Photos provided)

MIDLAND—Plainwell High School senior Aidan Ranger's passion for horses began at a young age.

"I've loved horses ever since I was little," he said. "I started taking riding lessons when I was four and I've been hooked ever since then."

Ranger's dedication to the sport was on full display at the Michigan Interscholastic Horesmanship Association's State Championship at the Midland County Fairgrounds last month.

Competing in Division D, Ranger took home the title of Reserve Champion.

"Earning reserve champion was a great feeling," Ranger said. "I went into the season with the goal of top two at State. Reaching that goal showed that all the hard work, long practices and time spent at the barn really paid off."

In MIHA, riders compete in multiple events and points are awarded based on placings in each event. Those points are added together to get totals. The school with the highest combined score wins.

Prior to reaching the State Championship, Ranger won district and regional titles.

"I love that every horse and every ride is different, and there's always something new to learn and work on," Ranger said. "I also really enjoy the sense of community in the sport. Everyone supports each other, even when we're competing."

Ranger was quick to point out that while he was awarded the title of Reserve Champion, he didn't achieve the feat by himself.

"I want to say I'm incredibly grateful to my parents and to everyone who contributes behind the scenes," he said. "Their support is what makes all of this possible."

Ranger, who got his first horse when he was seven years old and started showing a year later, competes throughout the year.

"I personally show almost year-round, so I practice year-round multiple times a week," he said. "In the weeks leading up to State Championships, my practices focus on specific skills that I know I'll need during the show. Like pattern work, transitions, and timing. Just spending time mentally and physically preparing."

And while the high school portion of his showing career is over, Ranger is definitely not ready to be done with the sport.

"I definitely plan to keep showing at the open and breed level," he said. "Horses are such a big part of my life that I can't imagine ever stopping."

OHS student Jacob Austin earns coveted certification

Otsego High School senior Jacob Austin, who takes classes at the Allegan Tech Center, has achieved what very few SolidWorks users do, earning the Certified SolidWorks Expert (CSWE) certification.

Austin is the only student in Dr. Dale Quattrin's 26 years of teaching Drafting and Engineering—and the seventh at the Allegan Tech Center overall—to achieve this feat.

SolidWorks is a 3D parametric CAD (computer-aided design) software used by engineering, manufacturing and product design companies worldwide.

The software allows designers to build precise models of parts and assemblies that can be adjusted and refined through defined parameters, making it an essential tool in modern engineering and manufacturing.

According to Quattrin, the CSWE certification represents the highest level of mastery available within SolidWorks.

"To qualify for the CSWE expert exam, candidates must first pass a series of advanced prerequisite tests in areas of Surfacing, Sheet Metal, Mold Tools and Weldments," he said. "While SolidWorks does not publish exact numbers, only about 0.1 percent of all SolidWorks users have achieved expert status."

Jacob Austin shows off the Certified SolidWorks Expert certificate he earned. (Photo provided)

That statistic that underscores the rarity of Austin's accomplishment, especially for a high school student.

"This certification is incredibly difficult to earn," said Quattrin, "It requires not just strong technical skills but also determination, patience and problem-solving ability. Jacob's accomplishment reflects the very best of what we hope to see in our students: curiosity, persistence, and a passion for engineering."

Austin's journey to certification began with a deep interest in design and building.

"I've always liked creating things and seeing how they work," he said. "I really enjoyed the SolidWorks program, and over the last two months I focused on preparing for the exam. I felt confident going into it, but when I found out I passed, it was a great feeling."

Austin is currently an engineering intern at Peloton Inc, a leading provider of custom machine design, mechanical design, control systems and other engineering services in Otsego. He is also a member of the Otsego Robotics team, and both experiences that have allowed him to apply his design skills in real-world settings.

His parents were "very proud and excited" when they heard the news, and Austin is already considering earning a few additional certifications before the school year ends.

Quattrin noted that accomplishments like this can open doors for students beyond high school.

"This certification gives Jacob a tremendous resume booster and a competitive edge at any company that does mechanical or engineering design work," he said. "It's an internationally recognized benchmark that many companies use for hiring, salary, and promotions."

After graduation, he hopes to attend Michigan Technological University, where he plans to study engineering.

"Jacob's success shows what's possible when students combine their classroom learning with hands-on experience and personal drive," said Quattrin. "He's setting a new standard for what our students can achieve."

Austin's accomplishment not only reflects his hard work and talent, but also highlights the strength of the engineering program at the Tech Center, a program that prepares students for high-demand careers through authentic, industry-based learning experiences.

Hoffman claims state title

Otsego senior Emma Hoffman entered the Division 2 Girls Cross Country State Finals on Saturday, Nov. 1, as the prohibitive favorite to win the state title. She did just that, posting a time of 16:50 to finish 13 seconds ahead of the runner-up. For full story, see Page B1. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

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B SECTION
The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise
SPORTS
Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025

First Place 2012 NNA Better Newspaper Contest
Award-winning Newspaper
Best Sports Column
National Newspaper Association

After two runner-up finishes at the State Finals, Otsego's Emma Hoffman won the title this year. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

Otsego's Hoffman wins state title

Bulldogs take runner-up in team standings

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

BROOKLYN—Twice in the past three years, Otsego senior Emma Hoffman has finished runner-up at the Division 2 Girls State Finals.

She entered this year's race at Michigan International Speedway on Saturday, Nov. 1, determined to move up a spot and claim her first state title in cross country.

And Hoffman did just that, posting a time of 16:50 to finish 13 seconds ahead of Gaylord senior Katie Berkshire for the individual championship.

That performance helped Otsego place second in the team standings with 119 points. Holland Christian took home the title with 113 points.

"It just felt very rewarding," Hoffman said of her win. "It felt like all the long hours and sacrifices finally paid off."

Not only did Hoffman have the fastest time in the Division 2 girls race, but she also had the fastest time of any senior girl in any division. That meant she also received the title of Ms. Cross Country from the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association.

"It's a super honoring award to be given," Hoffman said of Ms. Cross Country. "Looking back at my freshman self, it's something I did not really think I would achieve. But I'm so grateful and blessed to have gotten to this point and would not have been here without my parents and supporters along the way."

Hoffman's time at the State Finals this year marked an improvement of 41 seconds at the race compared to last year and a 1:37 improvement from her freshman year. She was also runner-up those years.

Her hard work and dedication to the sport have obviously played a major role in that improvement. But Hoffman said it's more than that.

Rather, it's about her faith in and relationship with God that has made the biggest difference.

"Truly without having faith In God I would not be the runner I am today," she said. "Having faith in Him and letting Him decide my races has released so much stress of my shoulders and lets me just run free knowing that I can't control the outcome

"And God already knows what's going to happen. So there isn't a point in stressing or getting anxious."

Hoffman definitely didn't look stressed or anxious in this race, as she went out hard as usual and led throughout.

"I really did not have a plan going into the race," she said. "The main thing was to just have fun and score as low as possible for the team."

Speaking of the team, Otsego entered the State Finals ranked first in the state and were the prohibitive favorites to claim the program's fourth state championship.

But fourth-ranked Holland Christian had other plans on this day.

"Going in, we did have our eyes on the state title," Hoffman said. "But every day is different, every race is different and you just can't control the outcome. Today we got beat by Holland Christian, but we still walked away proud."

Alayna Verhage joined Hoffman in earning All-State—which goes to the top 30 finishers—by placing 20th at 18:30. Addelyn Sabatke (32nd at 18:43), Skylar Mejeur (49th at 19:11) and Taylee Fox (52nd at 19:19) were the Bulldogs' other scoring runners.

Adelyn Verhage (59th at 19:28) and Rebekah Stachura (68th at 19:37) also competed for Otsego.

"Getting second in the state is a huge accomplishment," Hoffman said. "And even though it was not our day to win, there are five of those girl retuning next year who are all super talented and I have no doubt that they can be in the running for that title again

"I just wanted the 2025 girls cross country team to know I am so proud of all of them and their hard work and commitment throughout the season. I can't wait to see what they continue to do in their future."

Plainwell's Mai Nguyen, who qualified for the Finals as an individual, earned All-State by placing 29th at 18:40. Teammate Molly Bruggink was 99th at 19:59.

Wayland's Abree VanDenBrink placed 61st at 19:30.

Saugatuck girls place third at Division 3 State Finals

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

BROOKLYN0—So close, yet so far away.

That has been a familiar refrain for the Saugatuck girls cross country team when it comes to the Trailblazers' quest for a podium finish at the State Finals.

And unfortunately for Saugatuck coach Angelina Bauer and her runners, it was the case again this season.

The Trailblazers finished third with 189 points at the Division 3 State Finals, just 10 points behind runner-up Pewamo-Westphalia. Lansing Catholic won the title with 69 points.

The top two teams receive trophies.

This marked the fifth time the Saugatuck girls have placed third at the State Finals.

"It quite a heartbreaker," Bauer said. "We are a program of third-place finishes and near-podium misses. We know that we can look at it the other way and appreciate that having that many third places is awesome, but it still stings a bit.

"These girls have had their eye on a trophy for a few years, knowing what our team would look like when we got our incoming middle schoolers (now freshmen Ellyse Heyser and Ryann Monroe)."

Getting senior newcomer Savannah VanDenBerg—who was Saugatuck's fifth and final scoring runner at the State Finals with a time of 20:57 that put her in 115th place—made the prospects of a podium finish even more realistic.

"These girls did all they could to maximize their abilities, knowing what we have this year," Bauer said. "They conditioned in the offseason and spent hours and hours doing all of the above and beyonds.

"So when we look at the results and realize just how close 10 points actually was, it adds a bit of salt to the open wound. But we also are full of gratitude, knowing how many teams out there never get a chance to be third in the state.

Senior Alina Martinson led the charge for Saugatuck, earning All-State honors by finishing 13th at 18:59. She joined older siblings Natalie and Adam in garnering All-State recognition.

"Alina finally earned her first All-State finish, going out with a celebration her senior year," Bauer said. "Going into the race, I knew she would have a phenomenal day just by her attitude and demeanor. She was upbeat, positive and energetic. She really set a good tone for her team.

"I have known her since she was seven years old, and we coached both of her siblings. Her family has been a part of our program for a decade, and it's bittersweet to say goodbye. We are sad to lose her next year, but elated to send her off with such a big bang."

Junior Lyvia Curtis joined Martinson in securing a personal record, as she finished at 19:30. That was good for 31st, putting her a single spot out of All-State range.

"Lyvia has been our team leader and our rock, and we are relieved that we return her for one more season next year," Bauer said. "When people were comforting her about her 31st place finish, I overheard her say tearfully, 'Thirty-first? What? I don't care about my place. I just wanted to be with my team on the podium.'

"She is one of the most team-oriented, selfless athletes I have ever coached."

Saugatuck's other scoring runners were junior Kamryn Sixberry (36th at 19:41), freshman Ellyse Heyser (70th with a PR of 20:21) and VanDenBerg.

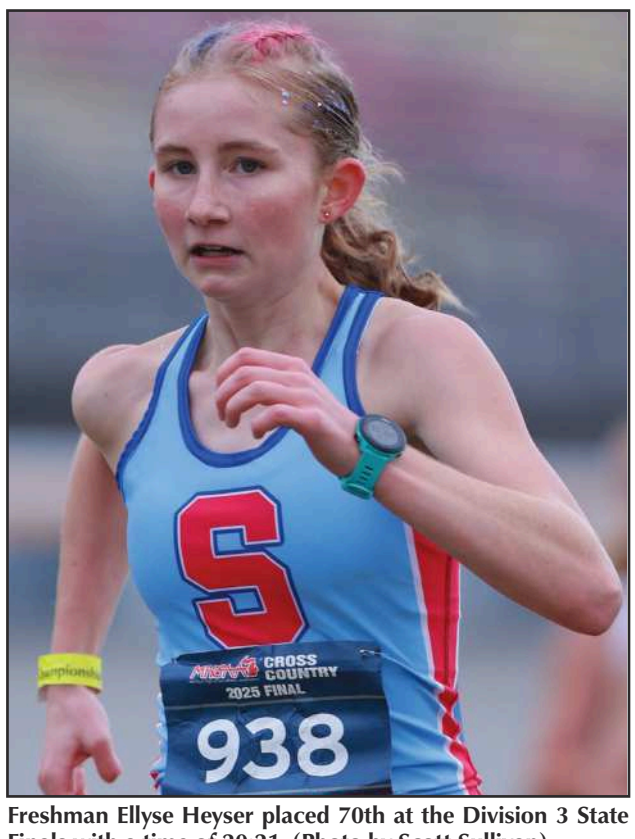
"If Savannah had not made the choice as a senior to come out for cross country, we likely would have barely finished in the top five," Bauer said. "It was because of her choice and willingness to come out and train like an experienced runner that we were even in the position to contend for a trophy."

Freshman Ryann Monroe (182nd at 21:59) and sophomore Rain Kalleward (241st at 24:36) also competed.

"All of these ladies are resilient and positive," Bauer said. "We have some talent, yes, but many of the made themselves, meaning, they came into the program as mid-to-back-of-the-pack runners. But through tremendous hard work, the daily grind, the ability to wait for delayed gratification, they have gotten to a place where they can run with the best and contend for a trophy.

"This team is just full of extraordinary human beings, and one day does not define our entire journey together."

Fennville's Isabelle Sliter was All-State, placing 14th with a time of 19:00. The Blackhawks finished 25th as a team with 577 points.



Freshman Ellyse Heyser placed 70th at the Division 3 State Finals with a time of 20:21. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

Conley leads Martin to top-10 finish

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

BROOKLYN—Three years, three All-State performances.

That's the story for Martin junior cross country standout Veyda Conley, who placed sixth at the Division 4 Girls State Finals at Michigan International Speedway on Saturday, Nov. 1, with a time of 19:12.

That performance from Conley anchored a top-10 team finish for the Clippers, who placed ninth in the 27-team field with 302 points. Whitmore Lake won the state title with 140 points, followed by Hillsdale Academy with 158 points and Buckley with 168 points.

Martin coach Kristin Evers was understandably pleased with her team's effort.

"I was very happy," she said. "We made some good improvements in the last month that set us up for a top-10 performance at state. Having a good day at state is the goal, but certainly not guaranteed. So I was happy they were able to reach their maximum potential for the day."

This race marked Conley's best showing at MIS. She was 15th as a freshman and 27th last year.

The top 30 finishers earn All-State recognition.

"(Having three All-State performances in three years) is hard to do," Evers said. "Veyda has improved significantly this season in the way that she has been racing. She runs her best when she has people around her to race.

"She came into the final stretch with the group we thought she would be running with in the last 400 meters. She was able to hold her position and pass most of the girls in that group to secure her place."

Martin junior Veyda Conley placed sixth at the D4 State Finals, earning All-State for the third straight year. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Martin placed 16th as a team at the State Finals last year.

"Being back here was a great experience," Evers said. "Most of these runners ran at MIS last year. We went last year just excited that we made it to the meet. This year brought expectation and the girls really performed on a big stage."

Joining Conley as scoring runners for Martin were Allison Rodgers (66th at 21:14), DuRae Sage (98th at 21:54), Riley Bender (120th at 22:14) and Sara Schipper (140th at 22:38).

"We do our best when our second through sixth runners are close together," Evers said. "Allison Rodgers has solidified herself as our second runner. She is a tough competitor which helps us in big meets. Durae Sage and Sara Schipper continued to improve throughout the season putting themselves in a position to be competitive at the state meet.

"Riley Bender, as a freshman, ran a personal best at the meet. The girls all had strong finishes passing many other runners coming into the finish securing ninth place."

And with just one senior—Alice Kadlecova—among their top seven, the Clippers are poised to another successful showing in 2026.

"We have a great opportunity to build on this year,"

B&C Trophy and Apparel, Inc.

Athlete of the Week

Emma Hoffman
Otsego
Cross Country

Otsego senior Emma Hoffman has established herself as one of the top distance runners not just in Michigan, but in the United States.

And at the Division 2 Girls Cross Country State Finals at Michigan International Speedway on Saturday, Nov. 1, Hoffman claimed the state title with a time of 16:50. She also earned Ms. Cross Country honors as the fastest senior in the state.

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Otsego's Dennany selected for US Youth Soccer roster

Otsego junior Peyton Dennany is pretty good at soccer.

How good, you ask? Well, she's ranked 10th in the nation as a midfielder.

And that earned her a coveted spot on the US Youth Soccer roster, giving her the opportunity to train in England.

"Making the roster for a US team is a huge honor that I am so grateful for," Dennany says. "I have worked hard for many years, so I am excited that it has led me to this incredible opportunity.

"I know that playing in England isn't a chance many girls get, so I will not take anything for granted."

The ranking is derived from a video system called Taka, which records games and processes data. It creates highlights for every player in the Taka system.

Most players on a national-level team are in this system, which includes Dennany, who plays on the Midwest United FC SCOR GA Aspire 2009 travel team.

"This is an incredibly rare, high-level opportunity," said Travis Timmons, Dennany's travel soccer coach. "I am super proud of Peyton getting this attention. She is an extremely hard worker who has dedicated herself to soccer over the years."

Approximately 20 girls from across the country are on the team. That group will travel to England in April to train with ManCity Academy coaches, which is the funnel that gets players into the pro soccer league in Europe.

The Manchester City Academy program is one of the best professional soccer clubs in the world.

"I will get to train and play against other academies in England," Dennany said. "We will train like pro players and play at the professional facilities."

This opportunity wasn't on Dennany's radar, but she's ready to take full advantage of what she can gain.

"I am excited to have some of the best coaching staff in the world," she said. "I will learn and expand my soccer knowledge and have very good competition because I am playing with the best girls in my position."

This is not only an incredible chance to improve now, but to hopefully open more doors after high school.

"My main goal is to come home with sharper skills and soccer IQ," Dennany said. "I have had my heart set on playing a high level of college soccer for many years, so I hope this helps me to achieve that."

Along with the work she'll put into training, Dennany will get to do a little traveling, see professional games, tour stadiums and spend time with the team.

"I am looking forward to traveling, touring, and meeting new people," she said. "I will also learn to be more comfortable playing with girls I don't know because it can be out of my comfort zone."

Timmons says he's had the "privilege" to coach Dennany for the past five-plus years and is thrilled this opportunity is before her.

"She's a great kid, a great listener, and she's extremely attentive and respectful," he said. "I don't bring that up lightly. At her age, it's hard to be all of those things all of the time. Despite Peyton's natural ability coupled with her drive for constant improvement, she has remained humble.

"She's always looking for ways to get better and she is a great leader, both in speaking either on her or her teammates' behalf, but also in encouraging and leading her team. She's definitely one of a kind and deserves this opportunity."

Otsego's Peyton Dennany (15) is seen in action during a game from last season with the Bulldogs. (Photo provided)

Allegan volleyball partners with Gobles for Wings Home

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

High school sports, when done right, are about much more than wins and losses. They're about teaching life lessons that the athletes can carry with them into adulthood.

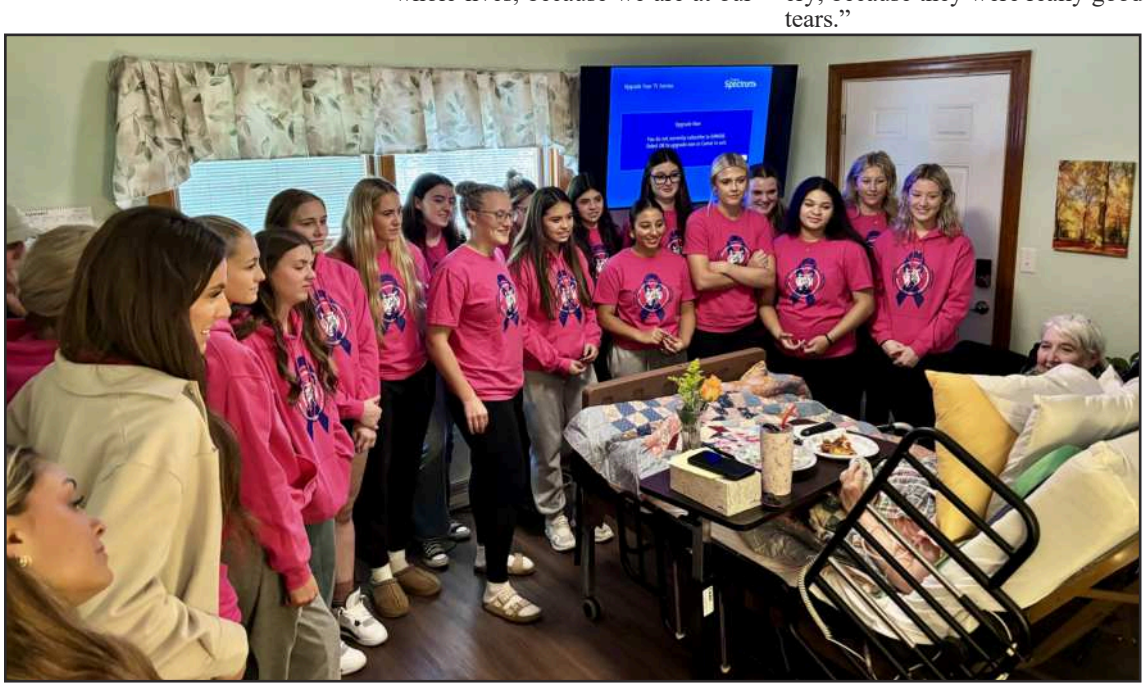
Such was the case for the volleyball programs from Allegan and Gobles.

A joint effort between the two teams raised $4,054.45 for Wings Home in Allegan.

Wings Home executive director Diane Barton said the impact of the players' and coaches' efforts cannot be overstated.

"I was so moved that the coaches are teaching the girls to give and care for others while they are young," she said. "I hope they continue giving throughout their whole lives, because we are at our best when we share our time and our gifts.

"I was also moved by these young women's curiosity, kindness and sweet hearts as they learned that life before death can be very special. These ladies' efforts will allow us to continue giving this gift of precious days at the end of their lives to more people because of what they did. I truly love them so much, even though they made me cry, because they were really good tears."



Members of the Allegan and Gobles volleyball teams visited Wings Home after raising more than $4,000 for the facility. (Photo provided)

This year's Cancer Awareness Game was scheduled to be played in Allegan. But flooding in the gym made that impossible.

No problem. The Gobles program simply stepped up to take on the hosting duties and everything that entails.

"Their entire program, from the seventh-grade team through the varsity team, was instrumental in making this event a success," said event coordinator Jake Kaylor, who used to coach Allegan. "Every girl in their program lent a helping hand, from decorating the gym to working the desks to sell cancer awareness items."

The event featured 50/50 raffles, more than 25 raffle baskets, and a silent auction. And girls from both programs walked door-to-door with Kaylor to local businesses to solicit support for this event.

"Both communities were overwhelmingly supportive, resulting in 20 sponsors from Allegan and Gobles businesses," Kaylor said.

Those sponsors included: Allegan Family Dentistry, Allegan Pizza Hut, Allegan True Value, Allegan Tubular Products, Allen's Farm Market, Andy's Ace Hardware, FSE Connect, Gobles Art Studio, GreenStone Farm Credit, The Grill House, Fauna & Pine, Healy's True Value, Lickety Split, Lizels Liquidations & Thrift Store, Malia's Mexican Restaurant, Nanny's Restaurant, Rapa Electric, Wolverine Hardwoods and Vera Bradley.

"While the girls played a great volleyball match, I believe the true importance of this event was giving back to the community," Kaylor said. "The girls had a firsthand experience of what it means to give back and support people in their final days, even spending time with a current resident of the home."

Players from the teams delivered the check to Barton on Wednesday, Oct. 15, and were able to interact with Barton and some of Wings Home's residents.

"Interacting with these teams was something I will never forget," Barton said. "Instead of being afraid because people will die in the home, they wanted a tour and they wondered if they would be able to meet one of the guests.

"One of our guests thought that it would be okay for the girls to meet her and they all gathered around her bed. I later thanked her for letting the girls do this, explaining that they had featured the Wings Home at one of their games as a fundraiser and they gave the home over $4,000.

"She was so impressed that the girls did this and she said, 'I'm so glad I let them visit me. They were so sweet. They touched my arm and made me feel so special. It was wonderful for me.' I told her someone asked if they would be allowed to volunteer here visiting patients and she said, 'Well, I hope they do, because it would be so nice to see them.'"

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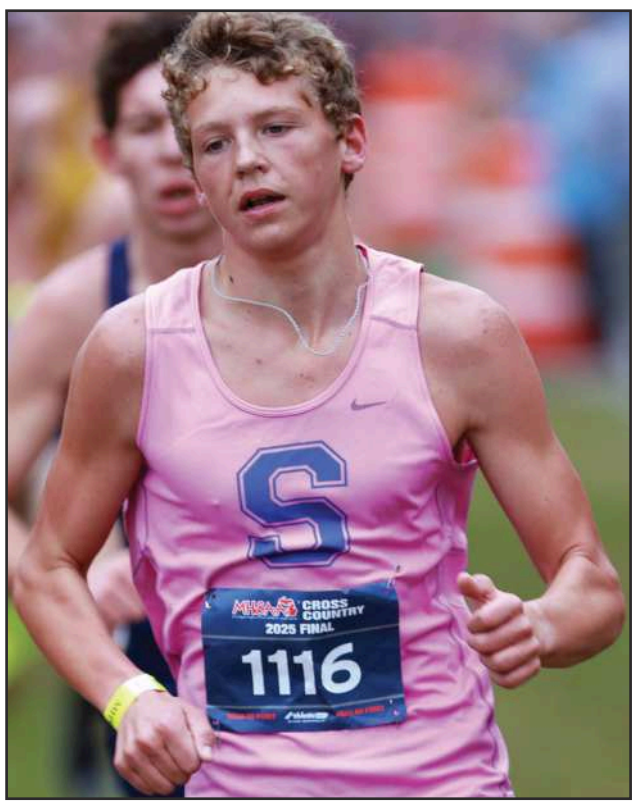
Trailblazers place fifth at Division 3 State Finals

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

BROOKLYN—The junior tandem of Marcus Silva and Grant Rehkopf earned All-State honors for Saugatuck at the Division 3 Boys Cross Country State Finals on Saturday, Nov. 1.

That was the good news for the Trailblazers.

The bad news? Saugatuck didn't have the team results for which Silva, Rehkopf and their teammates had been hoping.



Junior Grant Rehkopf joined Marcus Silva in earning All-State for Saugatuck. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

The Trailblazers—who entered the race with aspirations of claiming a state title after a runner-up finish a year ago—placed fifth with 170 points.

Charlevoix won the championship with 131 points, with Lansing Catholic also earning a podium finish by finishing runner-up with 138 points. Jackson Lumen Christi (143 points) was third and Ithaca (165 points) was fourth.

"It was tough," Saugatuck coach Rick Bauer said. "All of us—the kids and the coaches—went into the race with some pretty lofty goals. And it's not like we raced bad, really. Our times were solid. It just wasn't enough to finish where we wanted to finish."

Silva set a personal record of 15:56—his first time breaking the 16-minute barrier—to place ninth. Rehkopf also set a personal record at 16:05 to place 14th.

The top 30 finishers earn All-State.

"Marcus and Grant ran very well," Bauer said. "They both had hopes of earning All-State, and they did that. And honestly, if you'd told me that we would have two guys in the top 15, I would have been pretty optimistic about our chances as a team.

"But you have to give the four teams that finished ahead of us a lot of credit. They ran phenomenal races and were better than us today. I really believe if we run this race 10 times, we win it five times. This just wasn't one of those times."

Two other Saugatuck runners broke the 17-minute barrier, as sophomore Jackson Bowman finished 67th at 16:43 and junior Sawyer Monroe finished 81st at 16:52. The time for Bowman represented a personal-best result.

Sammy Gamboa—the lone senior on the Saugatuck varsity team—ran a season-best time of 17:00 to place 93rd to account for the Trailblazers' final scoring time.

Sophomores Ashton Skinner (167th at 17:42) and Ira Brown (236th at 19:22) also competed for Saugatuck.

"It's tough because the ultimate goal since we finished runner-up last year was to win the state championship this season," Bauer said. "We had kids who put in a lot of miles during the summer and were looking forward to this race for the past 12 months.

"And then it didn't go our way and it leaves you with such an empty feeling."

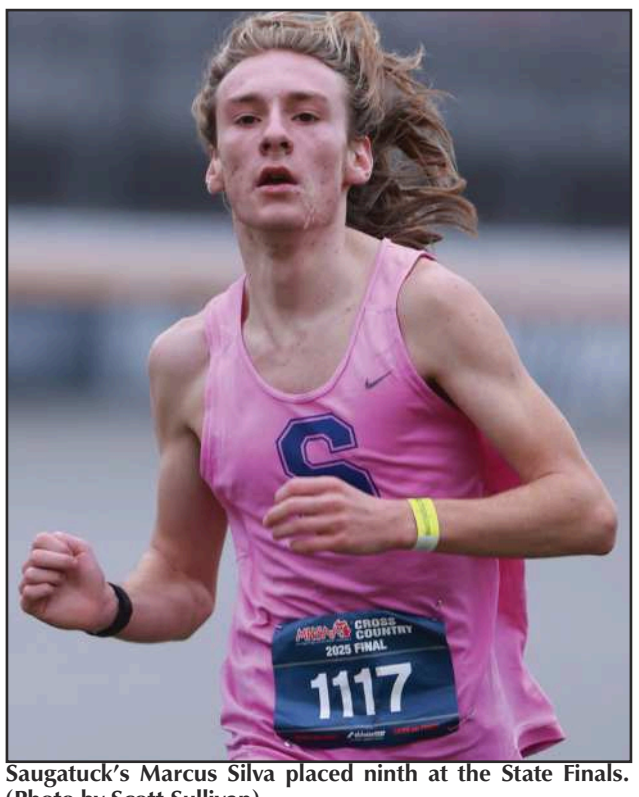
Bauer was already thinking about adjustments he could make for the 2026 season, as Saugatuck will return its entire varsity squad with the exception of Gamboa.

"I think I might need to talk to the guys a little more next season, both individually and as a team," he said. "This year, I tried to give the guys some room because I didn't want to overwhelm them or have them overthinking things.

"But I think I need to talk a little more about expectations for the different races and things to focus on."

Bauer, who is also the Saugatuck boys track coach, is hoping his runners can take the next step in their development during the spring.

"In the past, when we've had good track seasons for our distance guys, the next cross country season is a good one," he said. "So hopefully we can focus and get to work for track."



Saugatuck's Marcus Silva placed ninth at the State Finals. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

Martin starts postseason with shutout win over Marcellus

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARTIN—The ultimate goal for the Martin football team is to claim the program's third 8-Player Division 1 state championship in the last three seasons.

To do that, though, the Clippers first had to get past visiting Marcellus in a regional semifinal contest on Friday, Oct. 31.

And Martin did just that, cruising to the 40-0 victory to advance to regionals.

The Clippers will host Climax-Scotts—which survived an offensive slugfest with Gobles by a 72-62 score in its regional semifinal—in a regional title game on Friday, Nov. 7. Kickoff is slated for 7 p.m.

The game between Martin and Marcellus was a rematch of a Week 2 game that the Clippers won 38-14.

"I thought our defense played really well," Blauvelt said. "We looked fast and played physical."

And even with the game well in hand at 32-0 at halftime, Blauvelt and his players desperately wanted to keep Marcellus off the scoreboard.

"We wanted the shutout," Blauvelt said. "(Marcellus was) driving late in the game and we did a great job of not allowing them anything. We played four quarters of football. We need to do that every game.

"Zaiden Buell really impressed me, coming down hill and making big tackles in the open field."

On the offense side, Seth Toris and Bryer Watson led the charge for Martin, with each finding his way into the end zone twice.

"It was good to see Seth and Bryer set up and run the ball," Blauvelt said.

Not that those two did it on their own.

"Our offensive line played well, especially as the game got going," Blauvelt said.

Haylen Buell started the game's scoring, crossing the goal line on a 10-yard run in the first quarter to help stake Martin to a quick 8-0 lead.

Watson followed with a 33-yard scoring run later in the opening stanza, making it 16-0.

Toris got his first touchdown early in the second quarter on a 5-yard run, while Watson hauled in a 21-yard TD toss from Haylen Buell to give the Clippers the 32-0 halftime lead.

Though comfortably ahead, Blauvelt stressed to his team that letting down their guard even just a little bit wasn't an option.

"We really wanted to keep them from scoring, so we made a few minor adjustments (at halftime)," Blauvelt said. "It also was a great time to get some second string and younger players some time with the older players. We saw some things we liked going forward."

Blauvelt also had the opportunity to let Watson see some time at quarterback, giving Haylen Buell a bit of a rest and giving Watson some experience at the position.

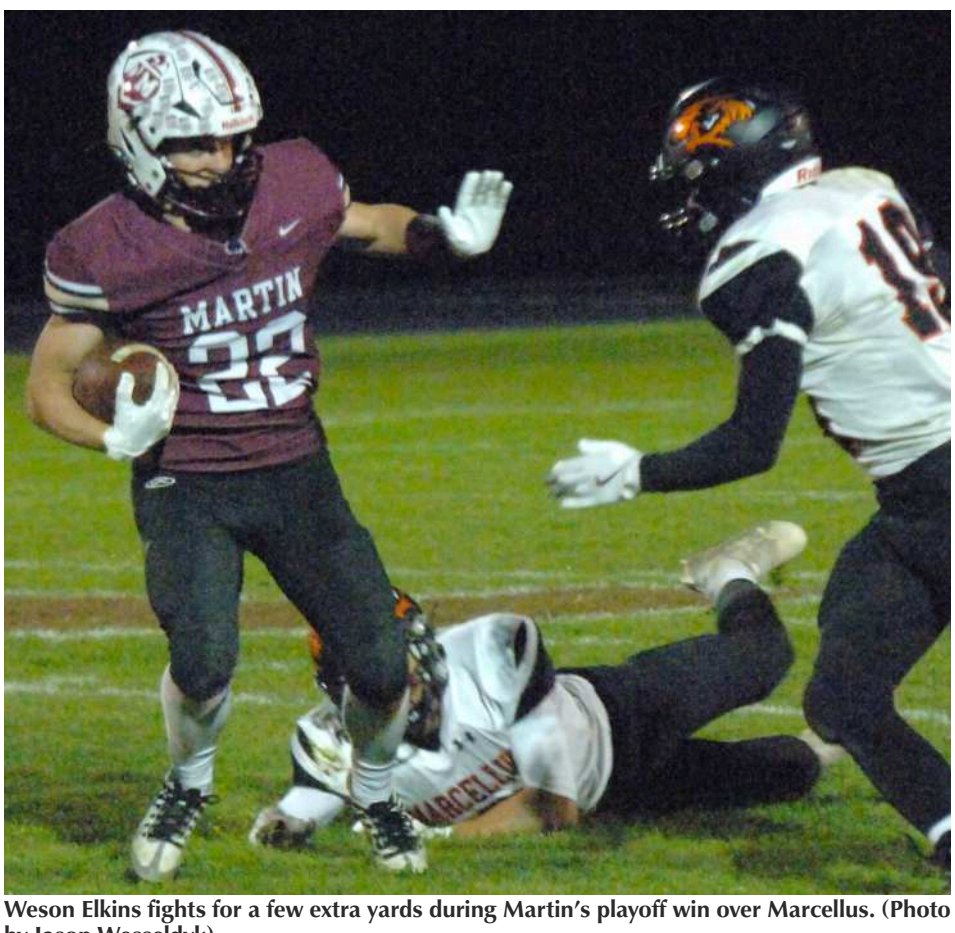
"Bryer really ran the ball well when he was in at QB in the second half," Blauvelt said. "It's a huge advantage having two QBs who can command the offense."

Toris accounted for the only scoring of the second half, racing 11 yards on Martin's first possession of the third quarter. That started the running clock, as it put the Clippers up by more than 35 points.

And while happy with the win, Blauvelt knows this game was just the first step in getting back to the Superior Dome on the campus of Northern Michigan University for the State Finals.

"We celebrated some of the finer details like blocking to the whistle, dominating them on defense," he said. "But we were very in tune with the Gobles/Climax game.

"What Climax does on offense is unique, so we have to play assignment football this week and wrap up on tackles. We are looking forward to the challenge. We need that trophy at the end of the night."



Weson Elkins fights for a few extra yards during Martin's playoff win over Marcellus. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Otsego boys place ninth at Division 2 State Finals

Gunnar Djerf, seen earlier this season, was the second runner for Otsego at the State Finals. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

BROOKLYN—Fresh off Wolverine Conference and regional championships, the Otsego boys cross country team was looking to make an impact at the Division 2 State Finals on Saturday, Nov. 1.

The Bulldogs finished ninth with 305 points, extending their streak of top-10 finishes at the Finals to eight straight.

Flint Powers Catholic claimed the state title with 98 points, while East Grand Rapids also earned a podium finish by placing second with 106 points.

Senior Kenny Sheffer had Otsego's best finish, placing 58th at 16:24.

Also scoring for the Bulldogs were Gunnar Djerf (90th at 16:40), Kaleb Koestner (97th at 16:41), Ryan Long (108th at 16:47) and George Whitaker (110th at 16:49).

Four Allegan County athletes competed in the race as individuals: Hopkins' Jack Estelle was 75th at 16:33; teammate Kash Moored was 100th at 16:43; Plainwell's Hiro Nguyen was 116th at 16:51; and Wayland's Mason Fein was 150th at 17:01.

Cessation of Great Start, Family Coalition affects participants and partners

By Gari Voss & Becky Huberty

The budget signed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer may have been lauded by some, but one of our early childhood programs across Michigan took a huge hit. All of the funding for the Great Start Collaborative and Family Coalition programs were cut. Translated, $19.4 million dollars will no longer be available to support giving Allegan County's children birth to four-year-olds an opportunity to develop skills necessary to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

William Brown, superintendent of the Allegan Area Educational Service Agency (AAESA), may have put it most succinctly, "To say that I'm disappointed is an understatement."

Allegan's ESA served over 2,000 families during the 2024-25 school year. With no funding, the Great Start Collaborative and Family Coalition programming for 2025-26 is lost. Brown listed what that means. There will no longer be:

• A central hub for coordinating family referrals, planning, and collaboration among early childhood service providers.

• Infrastructure that supports early literacy efforts, free book distribution, and early literacy training.

• A number of free communitywide events.

• A support network comprised of local organizations that work with pregnant mothers and families with young children.

"It feels, to be very honest, somewhat hypocritical," Brown said. "We hear a lot about 'This is an early childhood state; we need pre-K for all.' Great Start Collaboratives and Family Coalitions help families with young children get ready for kindergarten, so actions are not aligned to what we're being told."

When Brown referred to the withholding of funds being "hypocritical", the reference was to the 4 Early Childhood Outcomes prescribed by the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential's Office of Early Childhood Education:

Outcome 1: Children are born healthy.

Outcome 2: Children are healthy, thriving, and developmentally on track from birth to third grade.

Outcome 3: Children are developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry.

Outcome 4: Children are prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

With declining reading and math scores across the state, Brown feels that the cutting of the Great Start Collaborative funds will just compound the downward trend. The families who will be most affected will be the underserved who are traditionally lower income, indigenous, and/or bilingual.

Allegan County was a trailblazer in early childhood education thanks to the partnership of 53 local stakeholders and parents working together under the Great Start Collaborative. Stakeholders included agencies such as WIC, Positive Options, MIHP, Early On, Head Start, Great Start Readiness Program, Great Start to Quality, healthcare providers, libraries, local school districts, law enforcement agencies, WGVU PBS, and the Gun Lake Tribe's education department. Meeting regularly to improve early learning systems, these partners ensured that every child, regardless of family income, could access free, high-quality resources, services, and programs designed to prepare them for kindergarten and lifelong success.

All of those efforts are now unfunded, and three staff members are being laid off. There are no longer free early childhood outreach programs for all families. Families will likely fall through the gaps and fall further behind. The coming months will reveal the full effect of the state leadership's decision.

On October 27, 2025, Superintendent Brown and his staff invited the early childhood stakeholders to a virtual "Town Hall Meeting" for a moment of closure.

Brown shared, "Over the years, the Great Start Collaborative has been proud to work alongside each of you to support early childhood development and ensure that every child in Michigan enters kindergarten safe, healthy, and ready to succeed. The partnerships we have built together have made a lasting impact on countless families and children across our communities.

"Unfortunately, due to recent and unexpected funding cuts, we are no longer able to sustain our operations. This decision was not made lightly, and we recognize the disruption this may cause for families, educators, and local partners who have relied on our support and coordination."

With that, Brown informed the group that HelpMeGrow referrals would continue to be processed through the HMG Allegan website and encouraged partners to continue the promotion of early childhood development.

"We are deeply grateful for your support, collaboration, and commitment to the mission we have shared. Though this chapter is closing, we remain hopeful that the work we've done together will continue to influence and strengthen Michigan's early childhood systems for years to come."

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Faces in the Crowd

G C Stoppel

On November 1st, the federal government stopped funding the SNAP program, along with the financial support used by Head Start and many other agencies who assist those in need. Your thoughts, please:

-Woman at a farmer's market on M-89: "I have no idea what we're going to do if this lasts very long. This is bad for everyone. We get our produce here, but it's closing down for the season soon."

-Man, same location: "We'll all just have to tighten our belts more until those ()*&^%$# Dems come to their senses and go back to work."

-Woman with him: "People should plan a bit better and save more money for rainy days. That's what my folks did during the Depression."

-Couple near the hardware store in Fennville; Woman: "I don't know what people are going to do. Remember how Trump promised to bring down the cost of groceries and food? That never happened. Now, he's cutting off the money so people can buy the food they need. There is something wrong with that man."

-Older man near the front of the Allegan Public Library; Shook his head, "Well, personally, it doesn't affect me much because I'm not in the SNAP program, but I feel sorry for those who are suffering. Someone said that since Congress wasn't doing any work, maybe they shouldn't get paid. I sort of agree."

-Woman near the Griswold, "I hope some of those people wearing MAGA hats have to stand in line at a food bank. Maybe they'd think twice about how they voted."

-Woman came up to us. "I heard what you said. This isn't Trump's fault. It's the Democrats who are causing the problems. They always do. The Democrats, not those who support our President." Turning to me, "And you, you'd better watch out that you don't get put in jail for disrespecting our President!"

-Man near the Huntington Bank: "We're right on the edge now. You know, barely making ends meet, and praying to our Heavenly Father that nothing breaks or goes wrong or the kids don't get sick or I lost my job. I hope this shut-down gets settled real soon." Nods across the street. "That Mike has a brain and a heart. I saw what he put in the paper about helping people. He's all right. Hey! You ought to start something going to get him elected to Congress or something." I thanked him for his idea, then added that he's needed right here.

-Woman near A-Tech: "We're doing okay, pretty good, so I'm buying a little extra food for the food pantry. It's not much, but I'm worried about them running out."

-Man, same location: "If Trump is trying to, I don't know, rile people up or something, so he can send in the troops, well, this is a way to do it. He's already got his storm troopers in Chicago."

-The first woman again: "Wait until the soldiers don't get their pay; then we'll see something.

Halloween Spirit Rose from the Ground (and Sometimes Through the Roof!)

By Jay Kurtis Oetman

Allegan outdid itself this Halloween season. From the quiet corners of River Street to the winding lanes beyond the bridge, our little city came alive—or perhaps undead—with a riot of color, creativity, and good-natured fright.

This year's displays were not just decorations—they were full-blown animatronic and theatrical productions. Towering skeletons waved from porches, ghostly banshees drifted above lawns, and entire yards were transformed into miniature haunted worlds. One especially jaw-dropping display—just across from a local funeral home—featured a colossal skeleton bursting through the roof of a family home, as though even the underworld couldn't contain its enthusiasm for the holiday.

It's the kind of communal artistry that turns October evenings into a walking gallery. Children squeal, parents linger with warm cider, and neighbors swap both candy and compliments. Allegan's residents have proven, once again, that creativity thrives in the crisp Michigan air.

So as dusk fell and the jack-o'-lanterns flickered to life this Halloween season, enthusiasts could take a stroll through town. Residents celebrated the fun, the craft, and the collective imagination that make Allegan's Halloween displays a local legend. After all, in Allegan, the spirits don't just haunt—they inspire.

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 a.m. on November 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): James Henry Starling, a single person and Melissa Kay Weimer, a single person. Original Mortgagee: 21st Mortgage Corporation. Date of Mortgage: December 23, 2019. Date of Mortgage Recording: December 26, 2019 in Liber 4415, Page 895, Allegan County Records, Michigan. Amount claimed due on date of notice: two hundred thirteen thousand eight hundred ninety-nine and 71/100 Dollars ($213,899.71), including interest. Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the Township of Manlius, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, to wit: Remainder of Parent Parcel - Beginning at the North 1/4 post of Section 21, Town 3 North, Range 15 West, Township of Manlius, Allegan County, Michigan; thence South 00 degrees 02 minutes 10 seconds West on the North and South 1/4 line, 1858.42 feet to the centerline of Old Allegan Road; thence North 40 degrees 21 minutes 20 seconds West on same, 954.62 feet; thence North 54 degrees 50 minutes 44 seconds East 437.40 feet; thence North 40 degrees 21 minutes 20 seconds West 600.00 feet; thence North 54 degrees 50 minutes 44 seconds East 13.65 feet; thence East 313.75 feet; thence North 00 degrees 02 minutes 10 seconds East 414.00 feet to the North Section line; thence East on same, 325.00 feet to the place of beginning and all improvements thereon. Common street address: 5510 130th Avenue, Fennville, Michigan 49408. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. This notice is from a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information we obtain will be used for that purpose. This sale may be rescinded or set aside by the foreclosing mortgagee. In such event, damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return or refund of the bid amount tendered at such sale, together with interest. Dated: October 6, 2025 21st Mortgage Corporation, Mortgagee By: Richard A. Green Law Offices of Richard A. Green 30150 Telegraph Road, Ste. 444 Bingham Farms, MI 48025 (248) 924-2354 10/16/25, 10/23/25, 10/30/25, 11/6/25
(10-16)(11-06)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on November 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Zachary Kragness, a single man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Nationstar Mortgage LLC
Date of Mortgage: July 3, 2017
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 11, 2017
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $192,003.38
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Fennville, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 20, Landsburg's Plat, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, Page 26, Allegan County Records
Common street address (if any): 5667 Landsburg Rd, Fennville, MI 49408-9479
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: October 23, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1575275
(10-23)(11-13)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on November 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Jack Cafretsas and Megan Cafretsas, husband and wife
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lake Michigan Credit Union
Date of Mortgage: February 7, 2023
Date of Mortgage Recording: February 14, 2023
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $169,589.16
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Gunplain, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: That part of Section 29, Town 1 North, Range 11 West, Gun Plain Township, Allegan County, Michigan, described as: Commencing at the Southeast corner of said Section; thence South 89 degrees 29 minutes 38 seconds West on the South Section line, 1676.73 feet to the Centerline of Riverview Drive, thence North 35 degrees 52 minutes 52 seconds West on said Centerline 530.82 feet to the point of beginning of the parcel of land herein described; thence continuing North 35 degrees 52 minutes 52 seconds West on said centerline 109.43 feet; thence South 54 degrees 07 minutes 08 seconds West at right angles to said centerline 322.00 feet; thence South 35 degrees 52 minutes 52 second East, parallel with said Centerline 109.37 feet; thence North 54 degrees 07 minutes 46 seconds East 322.01 feet to the Point of beginning.
Common street address (if any): 874 Riverview Dr, Plainwell, MI 49080-1822
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: October 23, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1575312
(10-23)(11-13)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 04, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Jason Fein, unmarried man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: June 23, 2020 Recorded on July 7, 2020, Liber 4480, on Page 852, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fifteen and 52/100 Dollars ($125,915.52) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: Part of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 1, Town 4 North, Range 13 West, Salem Township, Allegan County, Michigan described as: Beginning distant South 01 degree 28 minutes 04 seconds East 823.26 feet along the North-South 1/4 line of said Section from the North 1/4 corner of said Section; thence continuing South 01 degree 28 minutes 04 seconds East 300.00 feet along said North-South 1/4 line to the South line of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section; thence South 88 degrees 27 minutes 56 seconds West 290.40 feet along said South line; thence North 01 degree 28 minutes 04 seconds West 300.00 feet; thence North 88 degrees 27 minutes 56 seconds East 290.40 feet to the North-South 1/4 line of said Section and the Point of Beginning. Commonly known as 4774 25th St, Dorr, MI 49323 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. This notice is from a debt collector. Date of notice: October 23, 2025 Trott Law, P.C. 31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (248) 642-2515 1575275 (10-23)(11-13)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 4, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Hernan Campos, a single man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Allied First Bank, SB DBA Servbank
Date of Mortgage: September 15, 2014
Date of Mortgage Recording: October 1, 2014
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $97,879.02
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Salem, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: The West 200 feet of the West 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 21, Town 4 North, Range 13 West, Allegan County, State of Michigan.
Common street address (if any): 3043 140th Ave, Dorr, MI 49323-9531
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: October 30, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1575807
(10-30)(11-20)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 4, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Tomas Brvenik and Anne L Oxendine, husband and wife
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lake Michigan Credit Union
Date of Mortgage: November 12, 2020
Date of Mortgage Recording: December 8, 2020
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $209,899.29
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Saugatuck, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: That part of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 22, Town 3 North, Range 16 West, described as: Beginning at a point on the West line of said Section which is South 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West
1130.35 feet from the Northwest corner of said Section; thence South 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West 154.05 feet; thence South 89 degrees 18 minutes 13 seconds East 198.00 feet along a line which is North 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East 25.00 feet from and parallel with the South line of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section; thence North 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East 154.05 feet; thence North 89 degrees 18-minutes 13 seconds West 198.00 feet to the point of beginning. Saugatuck Township, Allegan County, Michigan.
Common street address (if any): 2955 66th St, Fennville, MI 49408-9642
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: October 30, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1575854
(10-30)(11-20)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 4, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Hershel Baker and Sarah Baker, husband and wife
Original Mortgagee: Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a Subsidiary of IndyMac Bank, F.S.B.
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): GITSIT Solutions, LLC, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Separate Trustee of GV Trust 2025-1
Date of Mortgage: September 21, 2005
Date of Mortgage Recording: October 6, 2005
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $158,928.57
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Manlius, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 9, Retreat Subdivision, Manlius Township, Allegan County, Michigan, according to the plat thereof as recorded at Liber 6, Page 7, Allegan County Records.
Common street address (if any): 5386 Reveille Rd, Fennville, MI 49408-9590
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: October 30, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1575890
(10-30)(11-20)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 4, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Gregory J Giniel II, married man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Brighthouse Life Insurance Company
Date of Mortgage: October 17, 2022
Date of Mortgage Recording: November 1, 2022
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $1,237,730.85
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Casco, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot(s) 13, 14, 15 and 16, Block 5, Plat of Beverly Beach, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 5 of Plats, Page 1
Common street address (if any): 7258 Beverly Dr, South Haven, MI 49090-8653
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: October 30, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1576020
(10-30)(11-20)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 4, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Mathew W Prins and Melissa Prins, Husband and Wife
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc.
Date of Mortgage: January 5, 2015
Date of Mortgage Recording: January 8, 2015
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $108,666.84
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Heath, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing At A Point On The West Line Of P.M. Railroad Right Of Way, 52 Rods And 13 Feet South From North Township Line, Thence West 13 Rods And 14 Feet; Thence North 6 Rods And 13 Feet; Thence East To West Line Of Said P.M. Railroad Right Of Way, Thence Southeasterly Along The West Line Of Said Railroad Right Of Way To Place Of Beginning, Being Part Of The Northwest 1/4 Of Section 6, Town 3 North, Range 14 West.
Also, Commencing 759 Feet South Of The North Section And Township Line And The Westerly Line Of P.M. Railway, Thence West To A Point 285 Feet West Of The North And South 1/4 Line Of Section 6, Town 3 North, Range 14 West, Thence North 33 Feet; Thence East To The Westerly Line Of Said Pere Marquette Railway Right Of Way; Thence Southeasterly Along Said Line To Place Of Beginning, All In The Northwest 1/4 Of Section 6, Town 3 North, Range 14 West. Subject To Driveway Easement Set Forth In Deed Recorded In Liber 407, Page 81.
Together With Grant Of Easement For Ingress And Egress As Recorded In Liber 981 On Page 173.
Common street address (if any): 3570 Trackside Dr, Hamilton, MI 49419-9029
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: October 30, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1576136
(10-30)(11-20)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. XXX and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Marietta June Kaylor Date of Birth:*11-27-39
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Marietta June Kaylor, died 10-25-25.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Mary Lou Grazier, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
11-6-25
Mary Lou Grazier
806 Highbanks Dr.
Allegan, MI 49010

TO ALL CREDITORS
Estate of Sharon L. Hansen Date of Birth: September 27, 1947 :
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Sharon L. Hansen, of 320 Brigham Street, Plainwell, MI 49080, Allegan County, Michigan died August 13, 2025.
Creditors of the Estate of Sharon L. Hansen are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to: Larry Hansen, Personal Representative, or both the Allegan County Probate Court, 113 Chestnut St, Allegan, MI 49010, and the Personal Representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
November 3, 2025
David L. Carrier P41531
4965 East Beltline Avenue NE
Address Address
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
(616) 361-8400
Larry Hansen
1562 144th Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 2025-65532-DE and JUDGE HON. JOLENE A. CLEARWATER
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of DARCY GRACE LLOYD Date of Birth:*11/08/1952
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, DARCY GRACE LLOYD, died 03/02/2018.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to JACKIE LLOYD, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
8/6/25
JOSHUA M. FARRELL P79586
489 SEMINOLE ROAD
MUSKEGON, MI 49444
231-760-4490
JACKIE LLOYD
2110 66TH ST.
FENNVILLE, MI 49408
616-594-9907

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 24-65001-DE and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Daniel Martin Bradley Date of Birth:*07/17/1990
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Daniel Martin Bradley, died 03/24/24.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Julia C. Bradley , personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
6/21/24
Beth A. Striegle P59793
400 Ann Street NW, Suite 207
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-242-9192
Julia C. Bradley
1037 Hermitage St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616-246-4072

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 4, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Christopher Castro, an unmarried man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lake Michigan Credit Union
Date of Mortgage: March 8, 2022
Date of Mortgage Recording: March 10, 2022
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $282,698.18
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Wayland, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Unit 42 in the Wild Flower Ridge, according to the Master Deed thereof, as recorded in Liber 3364, Page 570, Allegan County Records, and any amendments thereto and designated as Allegan County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 284, together with rights in general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in said Master Deed and as described in Act 59 of the Public Acts of 1978, as amended
Common street address (if any): 835 Wild Flower Ct, Wayland, MI 49348-1480
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: November 6, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1576324
(11-06)(11-27)

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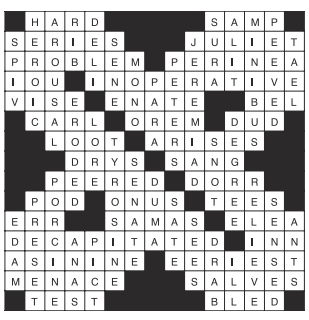

2	3	9	1	4	6	5	7	8
4	5	1	7	8	9	2	3	6
8	7	6	5	3	2	1	9	4
7	1	5	9	6	3	8	4	2
6	4	2	8	1	7	3	5	9
3	9	8	2	5	4	6	1	7
5	6	3	4	7	8	9	2	1
1	2	4	6	9	5	7	8	3
9	8	7	3	2	1	4	6	5

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CONSTRUCTION
New homes, additions, remodeling, roofing, siding, cement work.
Dan Barber, licensed builder.
673-7048 evenings

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673-4256

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& DEVELOPMENT CO.
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• Site Preps
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269-673-4791
www.wraysseptic.com
1148 Lincoln Road, Allegan

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Waanders Concrete Co.
Redi-Mix Concrete
Cement Blocks
673-6352
Babylon Road, Allegan

For The Record

Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

Nov. 6, 1950

North Ward moms protest: School board members meeting Tuesday night heard the protests of a group of North Ward parents who objected to the present solution of the first grade housing program.

At present, some of the North Ward first graders are being taken by bus to share a room at the South Ward with some 60 other pupils and two teachers.

The groups urged the board to take prompt action.

The board told the parents that a local church has been asked to rent its facilities for school use and a decision on this was still being awaiting.

They also heard that the board had attempted to rent a home on the north side for schools use. The state fire marshal had refused to approve this plan, however.

Nov. 6, 1975

Luck, courage led to incredible escape from Nazi Germany: Hans Gorter first met Adolph Hitler when Hitler was a prisoner at Landsberg in 1923.

Thirteen years later, when young Gorter was in the German naval academy, the two met again.

Hitler, by then fuehrer and gearing for a war while the rest of the world looked the other way, was reviewing a line of troops when he came to Gorter.

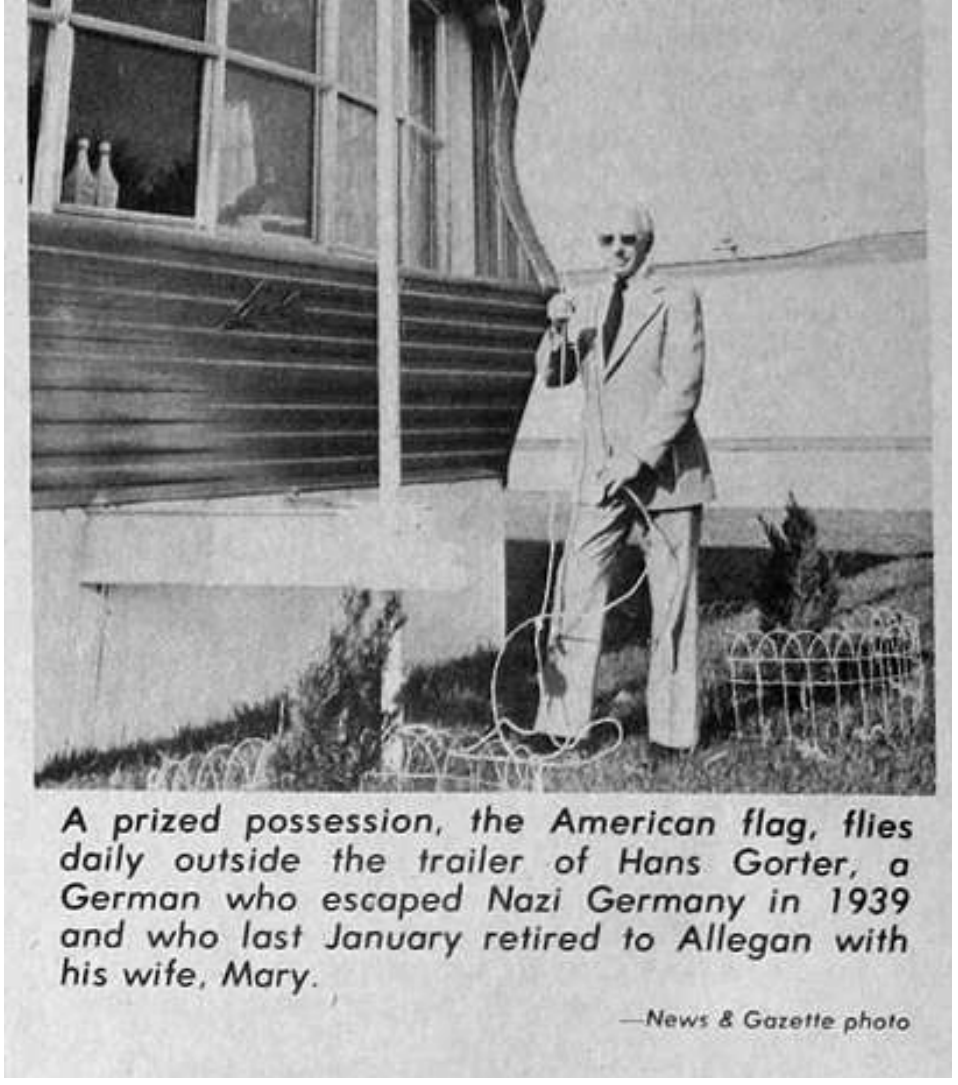
"I've met you before," Hitler said.

"He was an amazing fellow," Gorter was of Hitler. "He hadn't seen me in 13 years and then only briefly. He was a genius. If he had set his mind to doing good things, he could have made one of the greatest men Europe has ever known.

"But he didn't. He wanted to be a savior, a second Napoleon. He wanted to conquer the world. Well, the world wasn't that easy to conquer."

Gorter, a retired Allegan resident and former inn keeper for Holiday Inns, has been a U.S. resident since 1939. He has strong memories of those early years in Germany.

A Prussian native who grew up in Munich, he watched the rise of Hitler and his stormtroopers, joined the armed forces underground against Hitler and escaped through a series of incredibly lucky events, settling in a country he loves.



A prized possession, the American flag, flies daily outside the trailer of Hans Gorter, a German who escaped Nazi Germany in 1939 and who last January retired to Allegan with his wife, Mary.

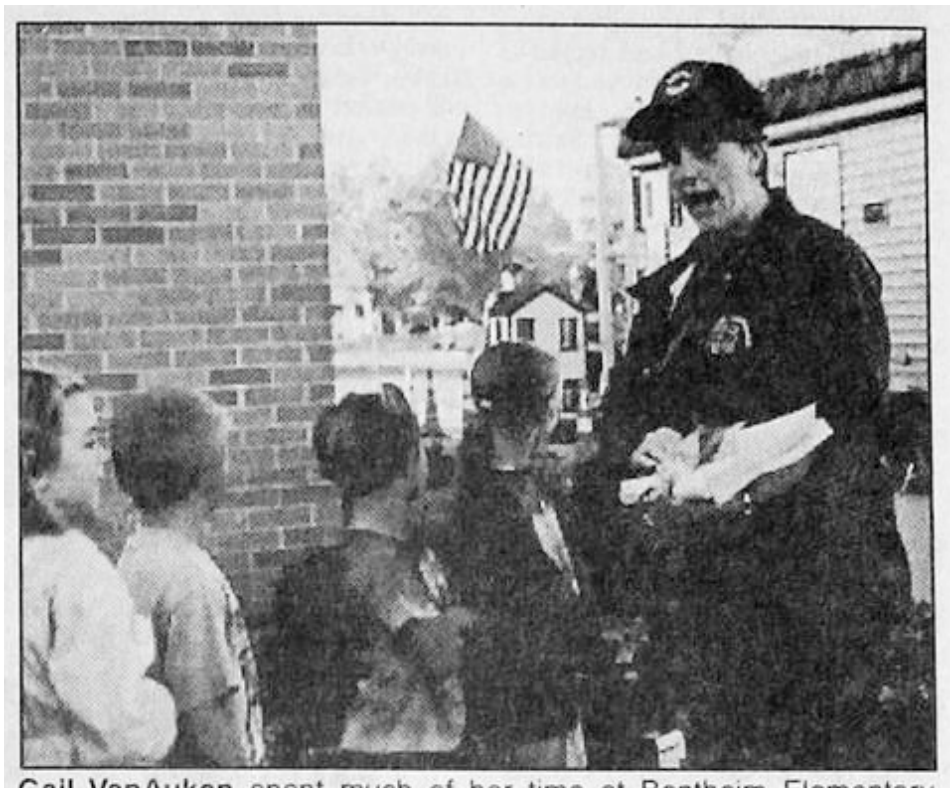
—News & Gazette photo

Nov. 9, 2000

VanAuken recalled as selfless person: Gail VanAuken died the way she lived … in the line of duty. On her way to preserve life and property.

The Overisel Township firefighter rode toward the scene of a farm fire in Salem Township Thursday, Nov. 2, in a 2,000-gallon water tanker. Richard VanAuken, her husband, drove the firetruck. An accident on the way left the wife dead and the husband in the hospital.

Friends eulogized Gail as a self-effacing woman who gave of herself behind the scenes.



Gail VanAuken spent much of her time at Bentheim Elementary School where she served as a teacher's aide. (Photo provided)

This is not the first time Gail, 41, made the pages of The Allegan County News. A year ago, she played a part in the tale of a Bentheim boy whose prompt action in calling 911 helped save his mother's life.

A photo of Gail with the family ran on the front page Sept. 2, 1999. She appeared in the picture only on behalf of fellow firefighters. It was the day after the 911 call and she had brought a cake from the fire department to the Becksvoort family.

She had to be talked into being in the picture. Personal recognition went against the grain.

Overisel fire chief Jim Mentzer recalled Gail as a person who never blew her own horn. While Mentzer took care of the big matter that fall to fire chiefs, Gail saw that the background details were taken care of.

"You're almost embarrassed to find out how much she did," Mentzer said. "Any time I needed help with anything, she was always there."

She took it on herself to send cards to people firefighters rescued or aided.

Nov. 5, 2020

Gun Lake Tribe donates $500k to schools, others: The Gun Lake Tribe announced Thursday, November 29, 2020 that it would contribute its federal CARES Act funds to Allegan County and local schools. The $500,000 will assist in meeting COVID-19 expenses.

The CARES Act was designed by the Federal Government to provide assistance for State, Local, and Tribal Governments to combat expenses of the coronavirus. The moneys can only be used for "necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019."

In the statement released by the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, Chairman Bob Peters stated, "We are happy to provide our friends and neighbors with additional funding during these very difficult times. The mobile vaccination unit will play an important role in getting our community back to normal, but in the meantime helping to keep our local schoolteachers and students safe is the next best thing."

That "mobile vaccination unit" will be purchased with the $225,000 that Allegan County receives. It will assist the county in providing COVID-19 vaccine to residents as soon as the vaccine is available to the public.

Robert Sarro, Allegan County administrator, believes "the mobile clinic will be an instrumental tool to help bring various public health services closer to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic and long after.".

The 10 school districts in Allegan County along with the Allegan Area Educational Service Agency (AAESA) will divide the remaining $275,000. Each will be able to utilize $25,000 for COVID-19 expenses.

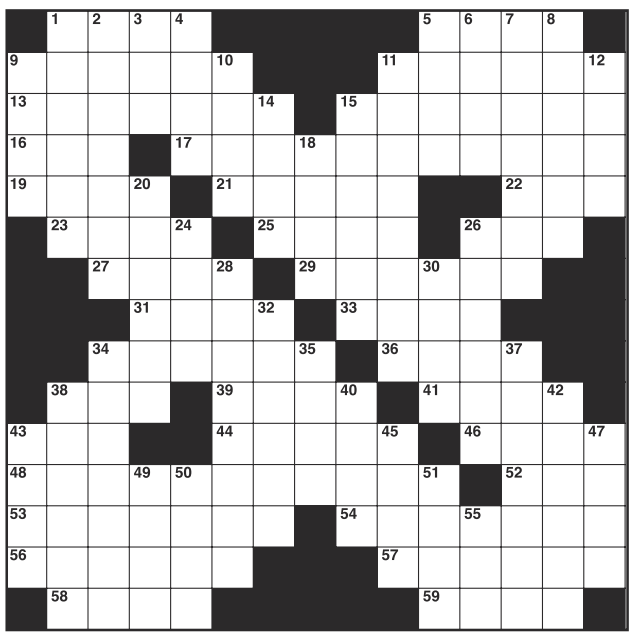
The school donations are meant to help with expenses such as expanding broadband capacity, air filtration equipment, development of online curriculum and other aspects of the COVID-19 impact on education.

William Brown, AAESA Superintendent, felt "the generosity of the Gun Lake Tribe will help ease the financial burden associated with remote learning, PPE, and sanitation procedures."

Brown continued, "We sincerely thank the Gun Lake Tribe for their unwavering support."

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. Difficult
5. Coarsely ground corn
9. There's one for the 'world'
11. Loved Romeo
13. Sticky situation
15. Pelvic areas
16. An informal debt instrument
17. Cannot be repaired surgically
19. A device attached to a workbench
21. Related on the mother's side
22. Sound unit
23. __ Sagan, astronomer
25. Utah city
26. A disappointing effort
27. Steal goods during a riot
29. Wakes up
31. Hair salon service
33. Serenaded
34. Looked intensely
36. U.S. Air Force expert Robert F.
38. A type of cast
39. One's duty
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic sun god
46. Ancient Greek City
48. Having had the head cut off
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most unnatural
56. Dennis is a notable one
57. Ointments
58. Students' exam
59. Leaked blood

CLUES DOWN
1. Brave
2. Act of awakening
3. Jest at
4. Sandwich store
5. Chapter of the Koran
6. Dismounted
7. Small vehicle
8. Irked
9. One who earns by disreputable dealings
10. Monetary unit of Samoa
11. Long, mournful lamentation
12. Weight unit
14. Alone, single
15. Decreases
18. Indicates beside
20. Worn by exposure to the weather
24. A body of traditions
26. College students' ultimate goal
28. Amino acid
30. Nasal mucus
32. US government entity
34. Swinish
35. Legislative body in Russia
37. Grant an exemption to
38. Put in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
45. Witnesses
47. Picnic invaders
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. Ancient person of Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Unwell

Deaths

Oct. 17, 2025

ALAN HENRY HAMELIN, 82, Fillmore Twp

KATRINA MINA WIKSTROM, 84, Douglas

KARL LEE RYAN, 60, Holland

Oct. 19, 2025

JUANTIA MARTINEZ, 71, Fillmore Twp.

Oct. 20, 2025

CHAD EVERETT KELLY, 54, Plainwell

JEAN LOASBY, 91, Allegan

Oct. 22, 2025

KENNETH EUGENE ADRIANSON, 65, Martin Twp.

Oct. 25, 2025

MARY LOU WENZEL, 91, Dorr Twp.

MARIETTA JUNE KAYLOR MD, 85, Allegan

SANDRA KAY MILLER, 82, Watson Twp.

Oct. 26, 2025

ARLENE JOYCE CALLENDER, 84, Valley Twp.

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between Oct. 21 and Oct. 29:

JONATHAN EDWARD TAPIA, Allegan, and **ERIN NICHOLE POPE**, Allegan

ASHLEY DENISE MATYASI, Holland, and **KRISTINA NOELLE BOWDEN**, Holland

AUGUST WILLIAM RADTKE III, Martin, and **HILDA TREVINO**, Martin

KAREN LYNN WILKS, Otsego, and **MICHAEL LESLIE PECKHEM**, Otsego

JOSHUA WILLIM BUTLER, Wayland, and **HOLLY NICOLE JANDERNOA**, Dorr

DAVID JOHN SIMPSON, Hopkins, and **MADISON NICOLE ANDERSON**, Hopkins

AVERY LEEANNE CUNNINGHAM, Wayland, and **JUSTICE LEE BURLEY**, Wayland

KAYLIE JANE SNIDER, Dorr, and **DARYN JOHN BUIST**, Wayland

LAUREN JANNA VONK, Fennville, and **JACOB BRITTON BACHMAN**, Fennville

ANDREW PETER TAYLOR, Wayland, and **SYDNEY LANE GRABER**, FORT WAYNE, IN

MELISSA NICHOLE LEIGH FRANKLIN, Dorr, and **RYAN DAVID BENEDICT**, Dorr

AUSTEN VERN NAUSIEDA, Wayland, and **JESSECA RYAN ULFERTS**, Wayland

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

					6	5	7	8
					9			
8			5			1		4
	1			6			4	
6			8		7			9
			2		4	6	1	
						9		
1	2							
		7					6	5

(See Solution Page B6)

■ see **Solution**, Page B6

RELIGION SECTION

There was a trifecta of special celebrations the last weekend. October 31st is, of course, Halloween; November First is All Saints' Day, or for some, Reformation Sunday; the second is All Souls Day. I find All Saints' Day something of a challenge. Growing up Methodist, and even when I was confirmed into the Episcopal Church, it did not have great meaning for me. Yes, there were important men and women who the church designated as saints, but on the whole I never had much of a personal connection with them. To me, they were austere and remote persons who just never seemed relevant to my spiritual life.

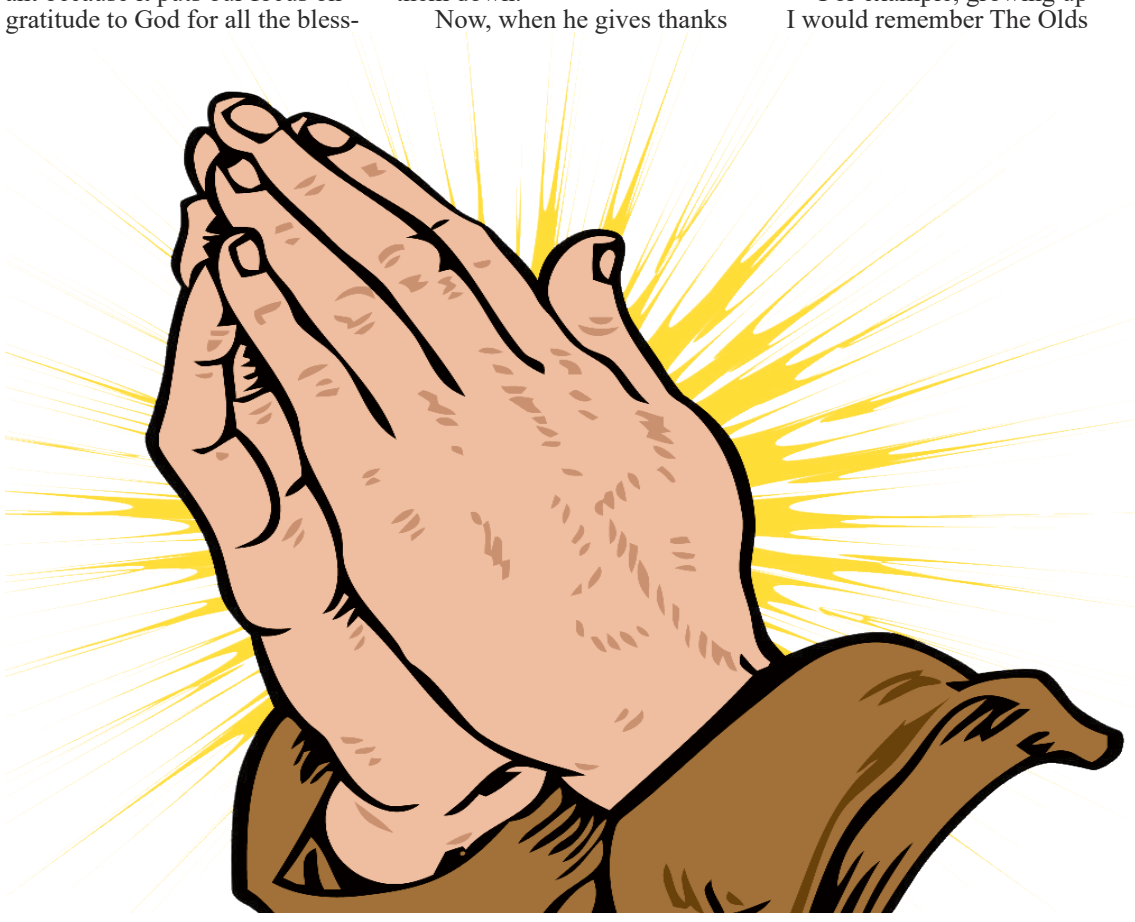
All Souls Day is very different. Around the world, it is a day where people very intentionally remember very important connections with those who are now deceased. All of us have family members or close friends who are no longer with us. To that, we might add others who had a tremendous influence on our life. To remember them keeps them alive in our heart and mind, and the ties of love and friendship become very real. We remember their influence that helped make us who we are today.

A while back, I began studying with a fellow who had a very shady past. He spent several years in prison, and while there gave his life to Jesus. As a result, he had some important insights he passed on to others and have great meaning for me.

Both of us believed that all good prayer begins with thanksgiving. Our appreciation for the day's weather, health, work, food, or anything else is important because it puts our focus on gratitude to God for all the blessings we have received. In turn, that led him to give thanks for the heritage he had received from his family. That heritage was very different from his earlier life. He was mortified to realize the contrasts and how he had let them down.

Now, when he gives thanks to God, he remembers those long-gone family members and the stories he heard about them as a child. It has made a tremendous difference in his life. When I began following that tradition, it had an impact on my life.

For example, growing up I would remember The Olds speaking in great respect about someone being a "steady worker." That was someone who got to work early, worked hard and avoided distractions, and gave a full day's work for full day's pay. Or, my mother who grew up in the Great Depression, several decades later sewing dresses and outfits for my sister so she would never experience not having something nice to wear. My father taught us how to plant a garden so we would never be without food. A great uncle who told me to learn good handwriting so I would develop the fine motor muscles and have a steady hand.



Behind all of these activities and examples were the great truth of hard work, honesty, and doing the right thing. Those are universal truths if we seek to honor God and our heritage.

All Soul's Day is behind us for this year, but that is no reason we should wait another twelve months to thank God for what we have received by those who went before us.

My list is of names seemingly endless. I believe you could say much the same thing. My list of reasons stay with my heart and mind is also endless. So, I hope, is your list.

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd, Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomin gdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 269-370-5834

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
673-5995
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Epiphany Lutheran Church (LCMS)
4219 Parklane, Dorr
www.epiphanydorr.org
Sunday service at 9:15 a.m., Bible Study and Sunday School following

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
10:00 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139
Pastor Todd Wagner

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Ganges United Methodist Church
2218 68th St
Fennville MI 49408
Phone 269-543-3581
Lay Minister - Marcia A. Tucker

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Haven Church
4691 Oak Street, Hamilton
(269)751-7300
Pastor Mike Drew
FB:havenreformedchurch

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
"A Community in Worship"
Griswold Auditorium
Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
04077 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Pathfinder North Church
(A Global Methodist Church)
532 M 89, Otsego, MI
490789:30 Fellowship 10:00 Worship
Rev Ron Hansen
Pathfindernorth.com

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Redemption Place Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Deborah Lesher
Church: 269-355-1167

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

UP Uni Pac "Contract Packaging Specialist" 809 Airway Dr. – Highland Industrial Park 269-673-8488

RAPA Rapa Electric, Inc. 1173 Lincoln Rd., Allegan 673-3155/673-3157

Waanders Concrete Co. Ready-Mix Concrete 3169 Babylon Rd., Allegan 673-6352

Allegan Eyecare Complete Eye Care for the Entire Family 123 Locust St., Allegan 673-5100 • 1-800-797-4351 www.alleganeyecare.com

LEGG LUMBER & Hardware Where the Builders Go! We deliver 730 River St., Allegan 269.673.4470 www.legglumber.com

NAPA AUTO PARTS 1513 Lincoln Rd., Allegan 269-673-3080

Ted's Auto Body Shop, Inc 892 34th St., Allegan 269-673-2309 Fax: 269-686-8508 tedsab1@gmail.com

A&A ANTKOVIAK & ANTKOVIAK PC For all your legal services 416 Hubbard St, Allegan • (269) 673-8468 antkoviak@frontier.com

Furniture Mattress Appliance COUNTRY HOUSE FURNITURE Your Complete Home Furnishing Store! 212 Trowbridge, Allegan, MI (269) 686-1155 8337 M-140 Hwy., South Haven, MI (269) 637-6135 www.countryhousefurniture.net

God He Integrity Opens Vision People's Encouragement Eyes www.HOPKINSPROPANE.com

To sponsor this page and join these community-minded businesses, call 269-673-5534.

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices Cheri Sleeman Schulz Associate Broker, REALTOR 269-720-4735 cherischulz@bhhsmi.com 430 Western Avenue, Allegan

We Are Proud To Offer 11% Off Groceries

Veterans Day is Tuesday, November 11. 11% Off Eligible Purchases To Our Current And Veteran Members Of The Armed Forces. Good All Day. • Thank You For Your Service!

Please present your military ID to receive discount. Some exclusions apply. Discount does not apply to already reduced promotional items, pharmacy, alcohol, tabacco, lottery, stamps, sales tax, gift cards, bottle deposits and other service counter items. Please see stores for more info.

VILLAGE MARKET FOOD CENTERS

YOUR HOMETOWN STORE

2025: AD EFFECTIVE DATES

MON. NOV. 10	TUES. NOV. 11	WED. NOV. 12	THUR. NOV. 13	FRI. NOV. 14	SAT. NOV. 15	SUN. NOV. 16

VILLAGE XPRESS MARKET

VETERAN'S DAY BIG 3-DAY SALE!

FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, NOV. 14, 15 & 16, 2025

SAVE $1.00

Spend $125 or more on groceries and receive $1.00 off a gallon of gas (up to 20 gallons)

ALL WEEK LONG

SAVE 10¢

Spend $60 or more on groceries and receive 10¢ off a gallon of gas (up to 20 gallons)

*Excludes tobacco, lottery, stamps, gift cards, western union, money orders, bottle deposits and sales tax. Limit 1 offer per transaction, per customer. Promo valid 14 days. See store for more details.

Smithfield Bone-In Ham Shank

$1.25 lb.

Smithfield Bone-In Ham Butt **$1.29 lb.**

Mix or Match Village Market, All Natural

Boneless Pork Sirloin Chops

Thin, Regular, Stuffed, Tenderized, or BBQ, Regular or Family Pack

BUY ONE PKG., GET ONE PKG. OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE

FREE!

Village Market Fresh

Bulk Chicken Drumsticks

5 lb. bag

$4.99

Fresh

Green Asparagus

$2.99 lb.

Mix or Match

Jumbo Yellow, Orange or Red Peppers or Avocados, each

BUY ONE, GET ONE

FREE!

Select Varieties

Our Family Canned Vegetables

Corn or Green Beans
14.5 - 15.25 oz.

88¢

Save at least 27¢

Our Family Cooking Oil

Vegetable or Canola
40 oz.

$2.99

Save at least $2.00

Select Varieties

Our Family Salad Dressing

16 oz.

2/$4

Save at least $2.00 on 2

Dutch Farms Cream Cheese

Regular or Light
8 oz. box

BUY ONE, GET ONE

FREE!

Save at least $2.99 on 2

Our Family Sugar

Light or Dark Brown or Powdered
2 lb.

$1.99

Save at least $1.00

Select Varieties

Hostess Mini Donuts

9.5 - 11.25 oz. bag

BUY ONE, GET ONE

FREE!

Save at least $3.99 on 2

Our Family Flour

Bread, All Purpose, Unbleached All Purpose or Self-Rising
5 lb.

$2.49

Save at least $1.30

Our Family Granulated Sugar

4 lb.

$2.99

Save at least 80¢

Select Varieties

Boulder Canyon Chips

5.25 - 6.5 oz.

BUY ONE, GET ONE

FREE!

Save at least $4.79 on 2

We reserve the right to limit quantities. We are not providing rain checks due to supply chain issues.

MURK 11-10 873 P1

fresh deli

Boar's Head

Available At Our Allegan Location Only.

Boar's Head Ever Roast Chicken $11.99 lb.

Boar's Head Picante Provolone Cheese $8.99 lb.

Boar's Head Hard Salami $12.49 lb.

Boar's Head Gold Label Swiss Cheese $13.49 lb.

Grab 'N Go

12-Piece Deli Fried Chicken

$17.99

Save at least $1.00

Fresh

Fried Chicken Tenders

$6.99 lb.

Save at least $2.00 lb.

Grandma's Salads

Macaroni Salad, Cole Slaw, Mustard or Original Potato Salad

$3.49 lb.

Save at least 50¢ lb.

Macaroni & Cheese

$4.49 lb.

Save at least 50¢ lb.

Select Varieties

Garden Fresh Salsa

16 oz.

$3.99

Save at least 80¢

$5.99 Daily Lunch Specials

Monday - Friday 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Monday, Nov. 10:
1/2 Panini of the Day
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side

Tuesday, Nov. 11:
Open Face Turkey Sandwich
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side

Wednesday, Nov. 12:
4-Piece Chicken Tenders
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side (1 Breast Limit)

Thursday, Nov. 13:
Pork Sandwich
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side

Friday, Nov. 14:
10-Piece Breaded Shrimp
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side

fresh bakery

Not available in all stores.

Ciabatta Bread

20 oz.

$2.99

Save at least $1.00

Sub Buns

4 ct.

$2.79

Save at least 70¢

Pecan Pie

8-inch

$10.49

Save at least 50¢

Select Varieties

Scones

6 ct.

$4.99

Save at least $1.00

Select Varieties

Sliced Loaf Cake

14 oz.

(includes pumpkin)

$6.59

Save at least 40¢

Baked Croissants

4 ct.

$3.99

Save at least 50¢

Village Market All Natural

Boneless Pork Sirloin Roast

Regular or Stuffed

BUY ONE PKG., GET ONE PKG. OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE

FREE!

SEAFOOD!

Fresh Walleye

$13.99 lb.

Select Varieties

TransOcean Imitation Crab

8 oz.

2/$5

Peeled and Deveined

Our Family Large Cooked Shrimp

31 - 40 ct., 16 oz.

$9.99

EZ Peel

Our Family Extra Jumbo Raw Shrimp

16 - 20 ct., 16 oz.

$9.99

YOU CAN DEPEND ON VILLAGE MARKET FOR TOP-QUALITY MEATS & SEAFOOD!

Great Selection... at prices you'll love!

Fresh

Chicken Drumsticks

Regular or Smokehouse Dry Rub BBQ Seasoned

BUY ONE PKG., GET ONE PKG. OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE

FREE!

MURK 11-10 873 P2

Buy More, Save More Meat Sale!

USDA Certified Tender

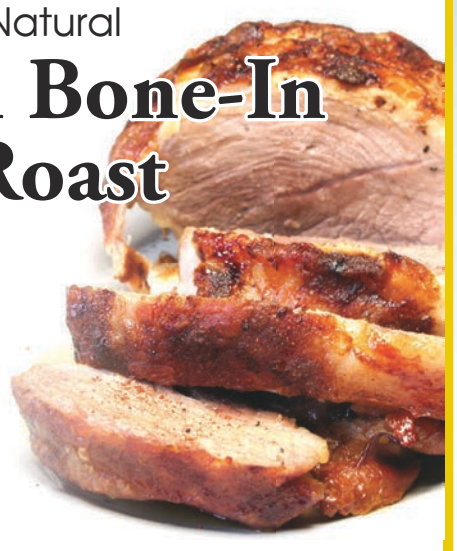
Rib-Eye Steak • Rib-Eye Roast
New York Strip Loin Roast
Beef Tenderloin • New York Strip Steak
T-Bone Steak • Porterhouse Steak
www.processverified.usda.gov

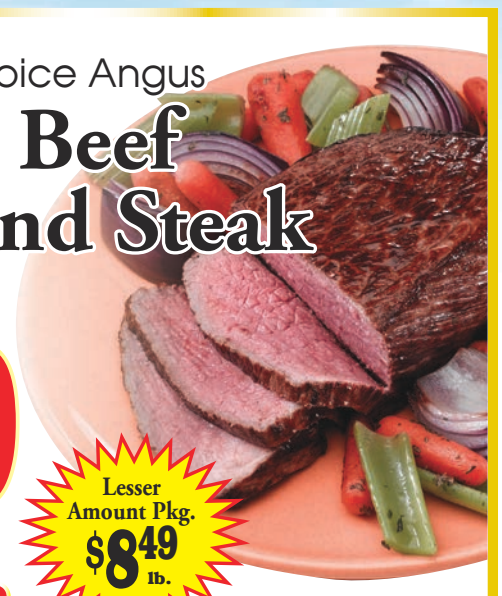
Village Market
All Natural
Boneless Fresh Pork Tenderloin

$3.49 lb.

Tender Ridge Choice Angus
Semi Boneless Beef New York Strip Steak
Family Pack

$12.99 lb.
Lesser Amount Pkg. $13.49 lb.

Village Market, All Natural
Pork Loin Bone-In Rib End Roast or Chops

$1.99 lb.

Tender Ridge Choice Angus
Boneless Beef Top Round Steak
Family Pack

$7.99 lb.
Lesser Amount Pkg. $8.49 lb.

Village Market, All Natural
Previously Frozen
Pork Spare Ribs

$3.49 lb.

Tender Ridge Choice Angus
Boneless Beef Rump Roast

$7.49 lb.

Fresh, Grade A
Boneless Skinless Chicken Breasts

$2.99 lb.

Village Market Certified
Fresh Ground Beef
5 lb. or more pkg.

$5.49 lb.

Butcher Shoppe Specialties

Village Market, Store Made, Fresh
Maple Bulk Pork Sausage

$3.29 lb.

Village Market, Store Made, Fresh
Original Bulk Pork Breakfast Sausage
Family Pack

$2.99 lb.

Village Market, Store Made, Fresh
Jalapeño Cheddar Meatloaf

$7.99 lb.

Value Added
Chicken Breast
Clear Film Tray Pack
Regular, Sweet Baby Ray's Marinated, Stuffed, Breaded Cutlets, Stuffed Cutlets, BBQ, Lemon Pepper, or Boneless Skinless

$3.99 lb.

Smithfield Sliced Bacon
Applewood or Cherrywood, Original or Thick Cut
22 - 24 oz.

$9.99

Select Varieties
Hart Entrees
22 - 32 oz.

$6.99

Select Varieties
Oscar Mayer Bologna or Cotto Salami
16 oz.

$3.99

Select Varieties
Land O'Frost DeliShaved Lunch Meat
7.5 - 9 oz.

2/$5

Fresh Produce

At Great Prices!

Mighigan Honeycrisp Apples

$1.99 lb.

Select Varieties Fresh Express Chopped Salad Kits
9.4 - 12.3 oz.

2/$7

Our Family Yellow Potatoes
3 lb.

2/$4

Select Varieties
Marzetti Caramel Dips
13.5 oz.
$3.99

Jumbo Green or Red Seedless Grapes
$2.99 lb.

Our Family Whole Carrots
3 lb. bag
$2.99

Select Varieties
Our Family Apple Cider
64 oz.
2/$7

Sugar Bomb Tomatoes
12 oz.
$3.99

Organic PRODUCE

Organic Honeycrisp Apples
2 lb. bag

$4.99

Select Varieties Earthbound Farm Organic Salad Mixes
10 oz.

$4.99

floral center

Zygo Cactus
each
$12.99

Mega Mums Bouquet
each
$14.99

Baking Sale

Our Family Almond Bark
Vanilla or Chocolate
24 oz.
$3.99

Our Family Pecans
Chopped or Halved
6 - 8 oz.
$4.99

Our Family Sliced or Slivered Almonds or Chopped Walnuts
6 - 8 oz.
$3.99

Select Varieties
Our Family Broth
Regular or Reduced Sodium
32 oz. aseptic
2/$4

Our Family Ground Black Pepper (4 oz.) or Pepper Grinder (1.75 oz.)
$2.99

Our Family Marshmallows
Regular, Mini or Fruit Flavored
10 - 10.5 oz.
2/$3

Our Family Peanut Butter
Creamy or Chunky
40 oz.
$4.99

Select Varieties
Our Family Kidney or Chili Beans
15 - 15.5 oz.
3/$3

Our Family Mashed Potatoes
Buttery Homestyle or Fully Loaded
4 oz.
3/$4

Our Family Sliced Mushrooms
4 oz.
3/$4

Our Family Crispy French Fried Onions
6 oz.
$2.99

Our Family Cooking Spray
Butter, Vegetable or Canola
6 oz.
2/$6

Our Family White Vinegar
128 oz.
$3.49

Duke's Mayonnaise
Regular or Light
30 oz.
$5.49

Select Varieties
Old El Paso Taco or Fajita Seasoning Mix
.85 - 1 oz.
3/$3

Select Varieties
Betty Crocker Favorites Cake Mix
13.25 - 14.25 oz.
4/$5

Select Varieties
Betty Crocker Cookie Mix
13.1 - 17.9 oz.
2/$6

Our Family 100% Pumpkin
15 oz.
2/$3

Select Varieties
Prego Pasta Sauce
45 oz.
2/$7

Select Varieties
Creamette Egg Noodles or Regular Lasagna
(12 - 16 oz.) or Oven Ready Lasagna (8 oz.)
2/$5

Select Varieties
Barilla Regular Pasta
(12 - 16 oz.) or Ready Pasta (7 oz.)
2/$3

Our Family Grated Cheese
Parmesan/Romano/Asiago or Parmesan
8 oz.
$2.99

Our Family Heavy Whipping Cream
16 oz.
2/$7

Select Varieties
Nestlé Toll House Cookie Dough
14 - 16.5 oz.
2/$9

Our Family Refrigerated Pie Crust
2 ct.
$2.99

Select Varieties
Dutch Farms Shredded Cheese
2 lb. bag
$6.99

Select Varieties
Our Family Hash Browns, Tater Puffs or Crowns
22.5 - 32 oz.
$3.99

savings - selection - service - quality - value

Assorted Varieties
Lipton Tea
12 pk., 16.9 oz. btls.
or **Pure Leaf Tea**
6 pk., 16.9 oz. btls.
$5.99

Select Varieties
Rockstar
16 oz. or
Celcius, 12 oz.
(plus deposit)
3/$5

Assorted Varieties
Pepsi Products
12 pk., 12 oz. cans
(plus deposit) or
Gatorade, 8 pk., 20 oz. btls.
$6.99
Save at least $2.00

Select Varieties
Frito-Lay Fritos or Cheetos
6.5 -10 oz.
2/$8
Save at least $3.78 on 2

Assorted Varieties
Coca-Cola Products
8 pk., 12 oz. btls.
(plus deposit)
$6.69
Save at least $1.30

Coca-Cola Products
2 Liter
(plus deposit)
$1.99

Select Varieties
Folgers Ground Coffee
22.6 - 25.9 oz.
$11.99
Save at least $10.00

Jax Curls
Cheese Puffed or
Hot and Crunchy
8.5 oz.
2/$6
Save at least $3.18 on 2

Select Varieties
Our Family Cranberry Juice Cocktail
64 oz.
2/$5
Save at least $2.38 on 2

Select Varieties
Coors, Coors Light or Miller Lite
18 pk. cans or **Modelo**, **Corona**,
Leinenkugel, Blue Moon or **Long Drink**
12 pk. btls. or cans (plus deposit)
$15.99
Save at least $2.90

Select Varieties
Nabisco Snack Crackers
3.5 - 13.7 oz.
$3.99
Save at least 60¢

Assorted Varieties
Coca-Cola Products
10 pk., 7.5 oz. mini cans
(plus deposit)..... **$7.99**

Select Varieties
Truly
12 pk., 12 oz. cans
(plus deposit)..... **$19.99**

Select Varieties
Lay's Party Size Chips
12.5 - 13 oz. **$4.99**

Assorted Varieties
Coca-Cola Products
2 Liter
(plus deposit)..... **2/$6**

Dasani Water
24 pk., or
Select Varieties **Powerade**
8 pk., 20 oz. btls..... **$5.99**

Our Family Round Top Wheat Bread
20 oz. ..... **2/$4**

Select Varieties
Yellow Tail Wine
750 ml..... **$6.99**

Select Varieties
Little Debbie Big Pack
12.68 - 31.78 oz..... **2/$9**

Select Varieties
Aunt Millie's Half Loaves
12 oz.
$1.89
Save at least 40¢

Our Family Grape Jelly
18 oz.
$1.99

Select Varieties
Our Family Canned Fruit
14.5 - 15.25 oz.
2/$4
Save at least 98¢ on 2

Select Varieties
Lysol Disinfecting Wipes (35 - 80 ct.) or
All Purpose Spray Cleaner
(28 - 32 oz.)
$3.99
Save at least 80¢

Select Varieties
Kraft Mac & Cheese
5.5 - 7.3 oz.
3/$4
Save at least $1.97 on 3

Select Varieties
Kraft Deluxe Mac & Cheese or Velveeta Shells & Cheese
9.4 - 14 oz.
2/$7

Select Varieties
Fiber One or Nature Valley Bars (10 - 12 ct.) or
General Mills Cereal
(18 - 19.7 oz.)
2/$9
Save at least $5.58 on 2

Cottonelle Bath Tissue
Ultra Clean or Ultra Comfort
12 pk. mega roll
$13.49
Save at least $2.50

Wendy's Chili
Original or No Bean
15 oz.
$4.49

Select Varieties
Campbell's Soup
Chunky or Homestyle
15.25 - 19 oz.
2/$4
Save at least $3.18 on 2

Select Varieties
Downy Liquid Fabric Enhancer
26 - 44 oz.
$5.49

Select Varieties
Tide Liquid Detergent
50 - 63 oz.
$11.99
Save at least $1.00

dairy savings - dairy savings

Daisy Regular Sour Cream
24 oz.
2/$6
Save at least $2.38 on 2

International Delight Coffee Creamer
Select Varieties
32 oz.
2/$7
Save at least $2.98 on 2

Our Family Milk
1% Reduced Fat or Fat Free
gallon
$3.29
Save at least 70¢

Country Fresh Egg Nog
half gallon
$5.99
Save at least $1.00

Our Family Rolls
Select Varieties
or **Biscuits** (8 ct. or 8 - 13 oz.)
or **Pizza Dough** (13.8 oz.)
2/$5
Save at least 58¢ on 2

Silk Milk
Select Varieties
Protein, Almond, Coconut, Cashew or Soy
59 - 64 oz.
$3.99
Save at least $1.00

Lender's Bagels
Select Varieties
17.1 oz.
2/$5
Save at least $1.58 on 2

Dannon Yogurt
Select Varieties
Regular or Light + Fit (32 oz.), Activia (4 ct.) or Danimals (6 ct.) (excludes Greek)
2/$6
Save at least $1.78 on 2

frozen favorites - frozen favorites

Stroh's Ice Cream
Select Varieties
48 oz.
$3.99
Save at least $3.00

Brew Pub Lotzza Motzza Pizza
Select Varieties
20 - 26.8 oz.
$5.99
Save at least $3.00

Nestlé Drumsticks
Select Varieties
4 ct.
2/$11
Save at least $1.98 on 2

Our Family Garlic Bread (16 oz.), Texas Garlic Toast (14 oz.), Garlic Bread Sticks (11.5 oz.), Cheese Bread Sticks (11.5 oz.) or 5 Cheese Garlic Texas Toast (13 oz.)
2/$6
Save at least 38¢ on 2

Totino's Pizza Rolls (50 ct.) or Spicy Rolls (24.46 oz.)
Select Varieties
2/$9
Save at least $4.98 on 2

Pillsbury Toaster Strudel (11.7 oz.) or Scrambles (7.2 oz.)
Select Varieties
2/$6
Save at least $2.78 on 2

Our Family Regular or Steamable Vegetables, 10 - 12 oz.
3/$4
Save at least $1.07 on 3

Banquet Mega Meals
Select Varieties
11.5 - 16.2 oz.
2/$7
Save at least $2.58 on 2

health & beauty and general merchandise

Paws Sale

Paws Laser Cat Toy each — **2/$5**

Paws Litter Scoop each — **$16.99**

Paws Loofa Dog Dog Toy 12-inch, each — **$4.99**

Paws Tennis Balls Dog Toys 2 ct. — **$4.29**

Paws Waste Bags 60 ct. — **$4.59**

Paws Natural Pig Ear each — **2/$5**

Paws 6-Inch Rawhide each — **$2.59**

Paws Natural 6-Inch Pork Femur each — **$4.79**

Rugg Economy Snow Brush/Scraper each **$4.99**

Rugg Path Master Backsaver Shovel each **$28.99**

Rugg Path Master Ultra 27-Inch Pusher each **$19.99**

Thermal Lined Men's or Women's Gloves each **$9.99**

TopCare Dental Floss
Hi-Tech Mint Waxed (54.7 yd.) or Flossers Mint (90 ct.)
2/$5

TopCare Aseptic Mouthwash, 16.9 oz.
Select Varieties
2/$5

TopCare Toothpaste
3.4 - 4 oz.
$3.99

TopCare Children's Non-Aspirin Liquid Pain Relief (4 oz.) or Non-Aspirin Chews (24 ct)
Select Varieties
$3.99

TopCare Day Time Cold & Flu
24 ct. softgels
$4.99

Energizer Max AA or AAA Batteries
4 ct. **$6.99**

Robitussin Medi-Soothers Honey Lemon (16 ct.) or Children's Cough & Cold (4 oz.) .....
Select Varieties
$6.99

Softsoap Liquid Hand Soap
Select Varieties
50 oz. **$6.99**

Colgate 360 Toothbrush
Select Varieties
Soft (2 ct.) or Floss Tip (1 ct.), **Hello Activated Charcoal Whitening Toothpaste** (4 oz.) or **Colgate Optic White Toothpaste** (3.2 - 4.2 oz.)
$6.99

Olay 4-In-1 Daily Facials Cloths
Combo/Oily or 2-in-1 Normal (33 ct.) or Regular Wet Cloths (30 ct.)
$7.69

TopCare Children's Liquid Ibuprofen
(4 oz.) or **Chewable Junior Ibuprofen** (100 mg., 24 ct.)
$4.99

Airborne Tablets
Select Varieties
10 - 32 ct.
$7.99

TopCare Night Time, Day Time or Severe Cold & Flu, 12 oz.
Select Varieties
$5.99

Irish Spring Bar Soap
Select Varieties
8 ct.
$7.99

We reserve the right to limit quantities & are not responsible for pictorial or typographical errors. Items with a purchase requirement exclude alcohol, tobacco, lottery, stamps, gift cards, Western Union & money orders.

Visit our website for Weekly Specials, Great Recipe Ideas and Up-Coming Events!
Come check it out at:
www.villagemarketfoodcenters.com

Store Hours:
- Allegan: Open 6AM - 12AM 7 Days!
- Colon, Decatur & Gobles: Open 7AM - 9PM 7 Days!

We double manufacturer coupons up to and including 50¢ Tuesdays & Sundays! (see store for details)

VILLAGE MARKET FOOD CENTERS

IN-AD COUPON PLU 37

5% Senior Discount
(55 & Older)
WEDNESDAY ONLY
(Excluding Alcohol, Tobacco Products, lottery, stamps, gift cards, Western Union and money orders)
PLEASE PRESENT COUPON BEFORE STARTING PURCHASE.
COUPON VALID WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025 ONLY!

Happy THANKSGIVING

• Celebrate with a Feast of Savings! •

Prices Valid November 10, 2025 - November 16, 2025

Dairy

Select Varieties
Dutch Farms Cracker Cut Cheese
7 oz.
2/$6

Bakery

Fresh Baked
Small Cartwheel Rolls, 12 ct.
$5.99
Save at least $1.00

Fresh Baked
Dinner Rolls
12 ct.
$3.49
Save at least $1.00

Village Market, Store Made
Fruit Cake
14 oz.
$6.99
Save at least $1.00

Bakery Fresh
Iced Cupcakes
Decorated for the Holiday, 24 ct.
$29.99
Save at least $3.00

Select Varieties
Dutch Apron Cake Rolls
15.5 - 19.5 oz.
$8.99
Save at least $1.00

Meat

Smithfield Anytime Favorites Sliced Ham
1.5 lb.
$7.99

Select Varieties
Armour Meatballs
20 - 25 oz.
$5.99

Select Varieties
Curly's Pulled Meat
12 - 16 oz.
$5.49

Curly's Baby Back Ribs
24 oz.
$13.99

Eckrich Family Pack Cocktail Smokies
28 oz.
$6.99

Select Varieties
Eckrich Family Pack Smoked or Polish Sausage
30 - 42 oz.
$9.99

Armour Summer Sausage
20 oz.
$6.99

PLU502

Good 11/10/25 thru 1/4/26
Only at Village Market Food Centers

VILLAGE MARKET FOOD CENTERS

SAVE $5.00 OFF
Any Large Deli Made Party Tray

one coupon per family, per transaction

MURK 11-10 161 G1B

Happy THANKSGIVING

Celebrate with a Feast of Savings!

Prices Valid November 10, 2025 - November 16, 2025

Order your Turkey Dinner from Us!

To assure your meal is ready, please order your Thanksgiving Dinner 48 Hours in Advance.
***$10.00 deposit Required**

Includes Mashed Potatoes (4 lb.), Turkey Gravy (1 lb.), Bread Stuffing and Sweet Potatoes (2 lb.) & Butterball Fully Cooked Frozen Turkey Avg. Size is 11 lb. See Stores for Details.

Cold Serves 10 - 12 **$69.99**

Hot Serves 10 - 12 **$74.99** plus tax

Order your Ham Dinner from Us!

To assure your meal is ready, please order your Thanksgiving Dinner 48 Hours in Advance.
***$10.00 deposit Required**

Includes Scalloped Potatoes (4 lb.), Green Bean Casserole & Sweet Potatoes (2 lb.). Smithfield Spiral Ham Avg. Size is 8 - 9 lb. See Stores for Details

Cold Serves 10 - 12 **$69.99**

Hot Serves 10 - 12 **$74.99** plus tax

Deli

Our Famous
Deli Fried Chicken
50-piece
$59.99

Our Famous
Deli Fried Dark Meat Chicken
70-piece
$69.99

Assorted Varieties
Deli Made Cheese Ball
$6.49 lb.
Save at least 50¢ lb.

Select Varieties
Garden Fresh Salsa
16 oz.
$3.99
Save at least 80¢

King's Hawaiian Original Hawaiian Rolls
12 ct.
$4.99
Save at least $1.00

Deep Fried Chicken Wing Zings
$7.49 lb.
Save at least $1.00 lb.

Columbus Charcuterie Tray
12.5 oz.
$16.99
Save at least $3.00

Produce

Fresh
Lemons
each
4/$3

Fresh & Finest Vegetable Platter
40 oz.
$13.99

Select Varieties
Marzetti Vegetable Dip
12 oz.
2/$7

GIFT CARDS

MAKE THE PERFECT GIFT!
Don't Forget your Village Market Food Center Gift Cards are available at all locations!

HELP FIGHT HUNGER!
DONATE-A-BAG

Join Village Markets in helping our neighbors restock their shelves!

1.) Select a bag in the store in the amount that you wish to donate ($10, $15 or $20).
2.) Pay for the bag when you check out.
3.) Drop the bag off in the bin at the front of the store or you may take it directly to a person in need.
4.) We will coordinate the delivery of the donated food in the store bins to neighbors in need.